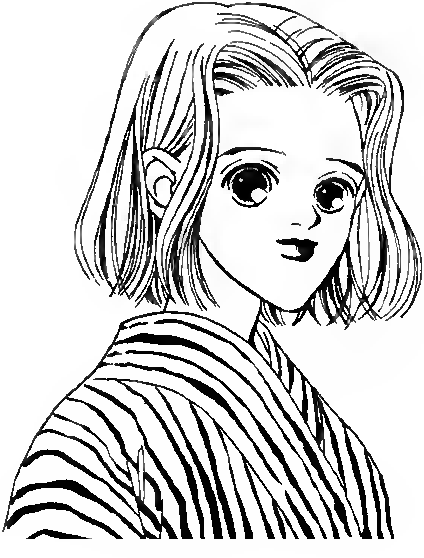
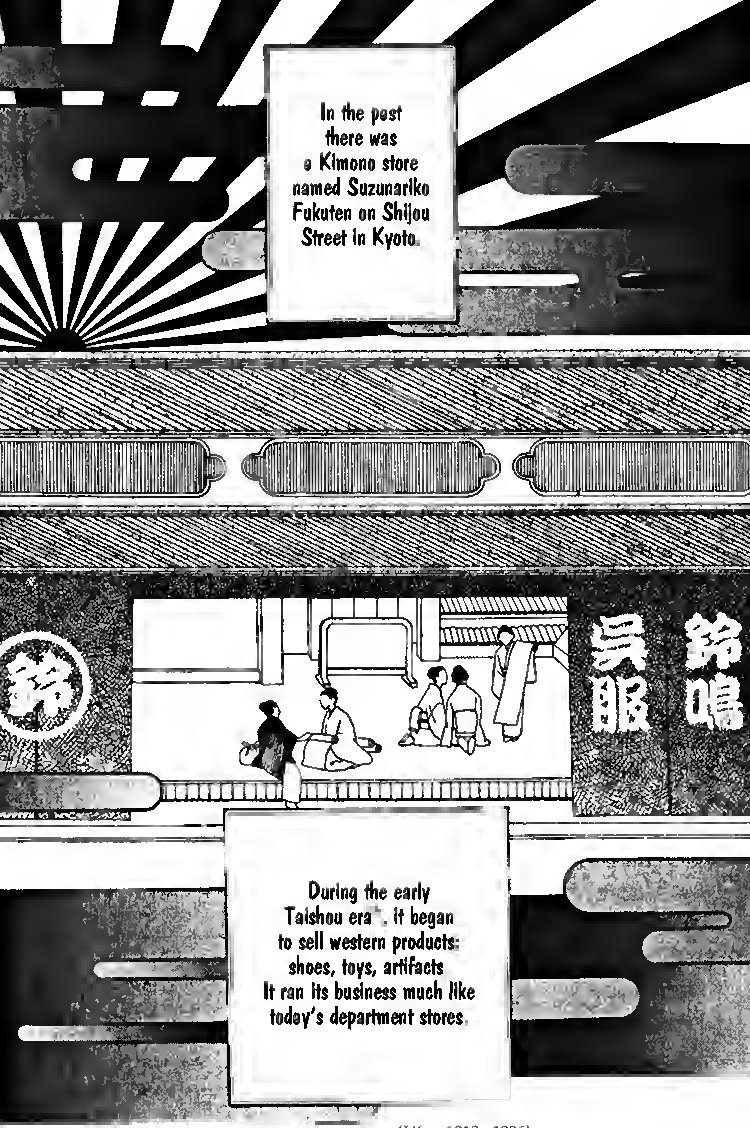
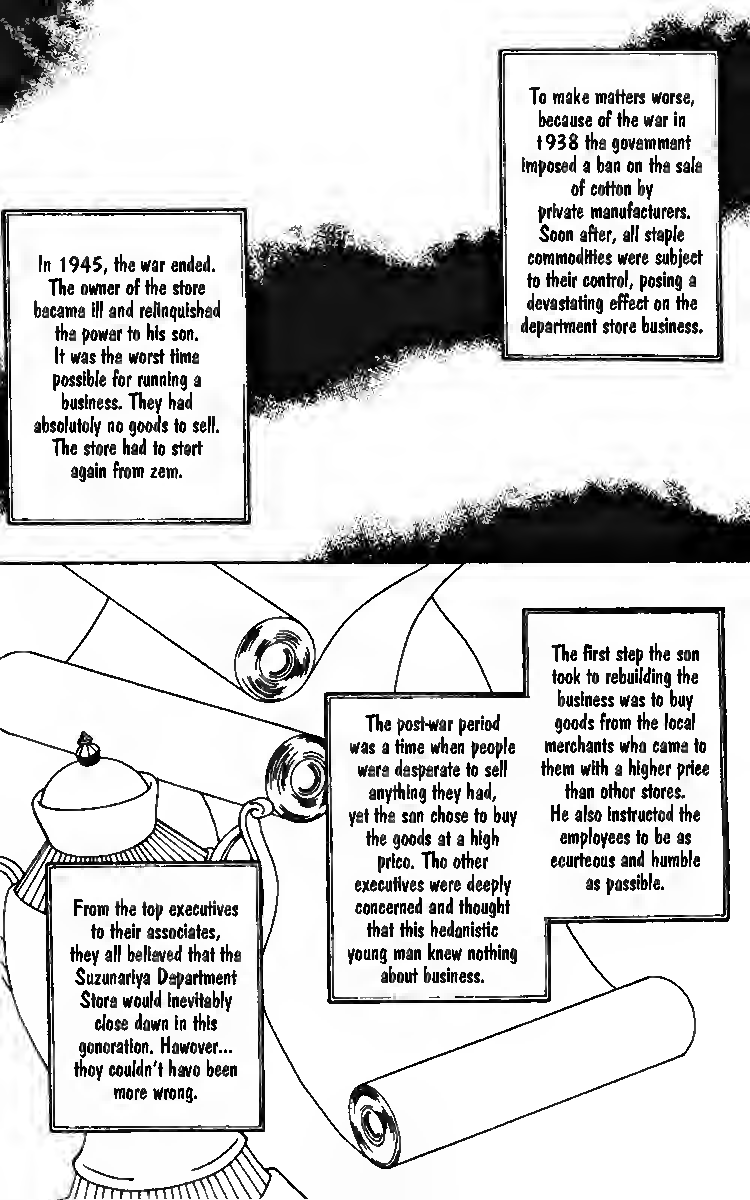
Fukuyadō Honpo
福家堂本舗
5
The Mystery of Hinoyama House (1)
YAYOMI YUCHI

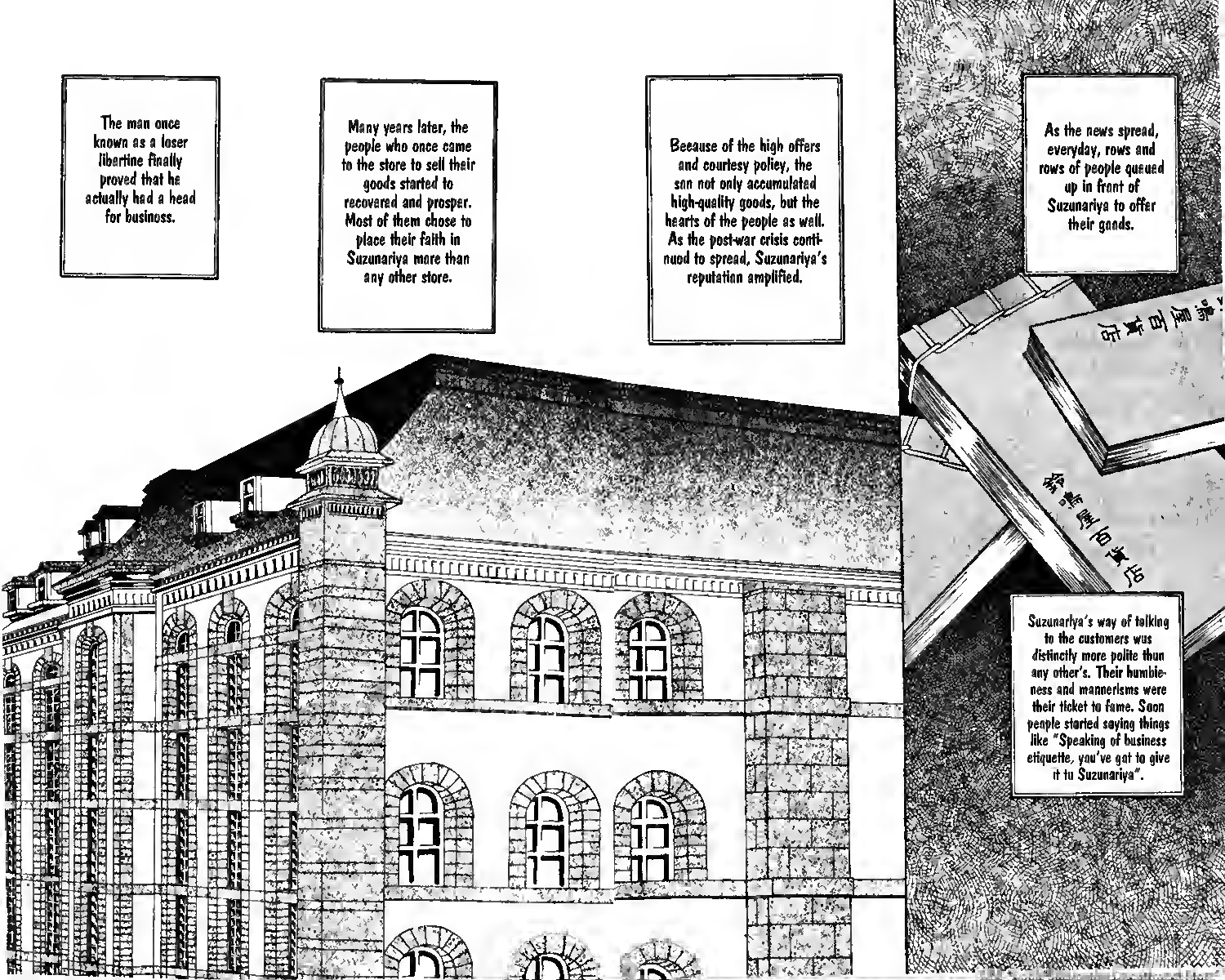


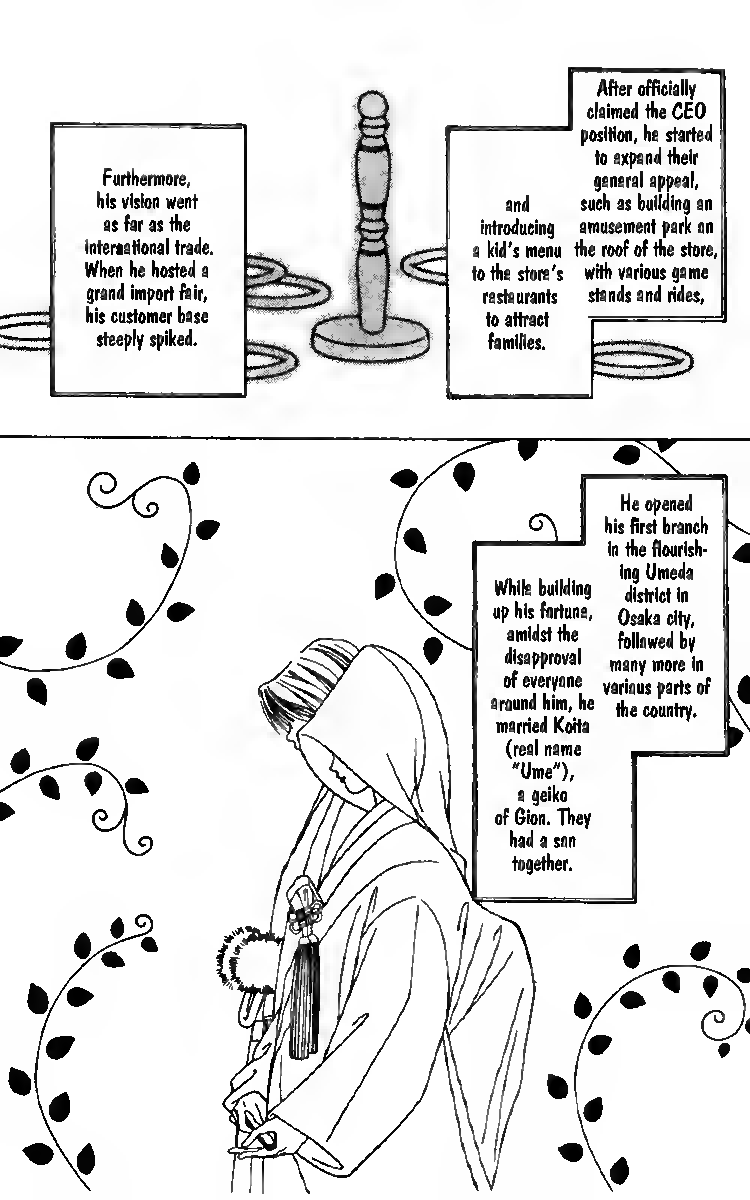

In the past there was a Kimono store named Suzunariko Fukuten on Shijou Street in Kyoto.
鈴
鳴
呉服
During the early Taishou era*, it began to sell western products: shoes, toys, artifacts It ran its business much like today's department stores.

(* Year 1912 - 1926)

In 1921, a boy was born.
He was the heir of the Suzunari shop. When he grew up, he entered the K-University, school of economics
However, this young man preferred to live his life as a libertine. Every night was spent roaming the Gion district until one day when his name was pulled from the university. Yet he continued to disappoint and upset his family.
Instead of taking after his serious, hard-working father, the son indulged himself with nothing but pleasures.
Needless to say the people around him couldn't have been more anxious about the future of Suzunariko Fukuten.


To make matters worse, because of the war in 1938 the government imposed a ban on the sale of cotton by private manufacturers. Soon after, all staple commodities were subject to their control, posing a devastating effect on the department store business.
In 1945, the war ended. The owner of the store became ill and relinquished the power to his son. It was the worst time possible for running a business. They had absolutely no goods to sell. The store had to start again from zero.
The first step the son took to rebuilding the business was to buy goods from the local merchants who came to them with a higher price than other stores. He also instructed the employees to be as courteous and humble as possible.
The post-war period was a time when people were desperate to sell anything they had, yet the son chose to buy the goods at a high price. The other executives were deeply concerned and thought that this hedonistic young man knew nothing about business.
From the top executives to their associates, they all believed that the Suzunariya Department Store would inevitably close down in this generation. However... they couldn't have been more wrong.


The man once known as a loser libertine finally proved that he actually had a head for businoss.
Many years later, the people who once came to the store to sell their goods started to recovered and prosper. Most of them chose to place their faith in Suzunariya more than any other store.
Because of the high offers and courtesy poliey, the san not only accumulated high-quality goods, but the hearts of the people as well. As the post-war crisis continuod to spread, Suzunariya's reputatinn amplified.
As the news spread, everyday, rows and rows of people queued up in front of Suzunariya to offer their gands.
Suzunariya's way of talking to the customers wus distinctly more polite thun any other's. Their humbleness and mannerisms were their ticket to fame. Soon people started saying things like "Speaking of business etiquette, you've gat to give it tu Suzunariya".


Furthermore, his vision went as far as the international trade. When he hosted a grand import fair, his customer base steeply spiked.
and introducing a kid's menu to the store's restaurants to attract families.
After officially claimed the CEO position, he started to expand their general appeal, such as building an amusement park on the roof of the store, with various game stands and rides,
While building up his fortune, amidst the disapproval of everyone around him, he married Koita (real name "Ume"), a geiko of Gion. They had a son together.
He opened his first branch in the flourishing Umeda district in Osaka city, followed by many more in various parts of the country.

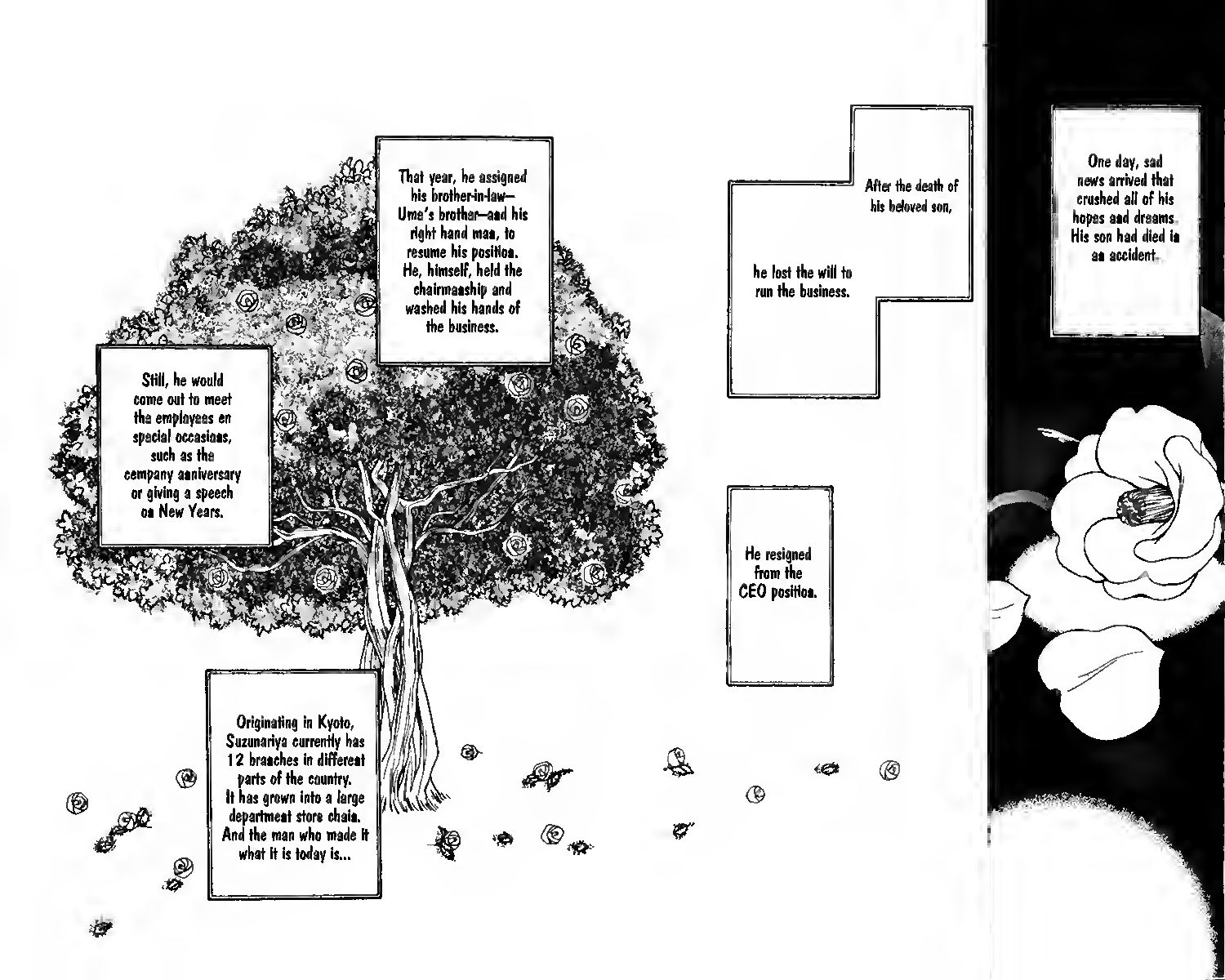
He poured his love and devotion into his only son, giving him proper guidance, sending him to the same university he entered, teaching him trade secrets and everything right from his own experience.

After his wife passed away, he received the fourth daughter of a friend to be his daughter-in-law. She later gave birth to a son. That friend of his later became the owner of the famous N-Food Products Company, the pioneer of Japanese instant food.

A seemingly perfect picture suddenly was missing a piece.

It was only a matter of time until he'd pass the business conglomerate to his son. For this man, everything seemed to be going smoothly.

However...


One day, sad news arrived that crushed all of his hopes and dreams. His son had died in an accident.
After the death of his beloved son,
he lost the will to run the business.
He resigned from the CEO position.
That year, he assigned his brother-in-law—Ume's brother—and his right hand man, to resume his position. He, himself, held the chairmanship and washed his hands of the business.
Still, he would come out to meet the employees on special occasions, such as the company anniversary or giving a speech on New Years.
Originating in Kyoto, Suzunariya currently has 12 branches in different parts of the country. It has grown into a large department store chain. And the man who made it what it is today is...

The President of Suzunariya Department Store and the chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Kyoto, Hinoyama Sakusau.

Special Scoop The biography of the people in the Kyoto Business

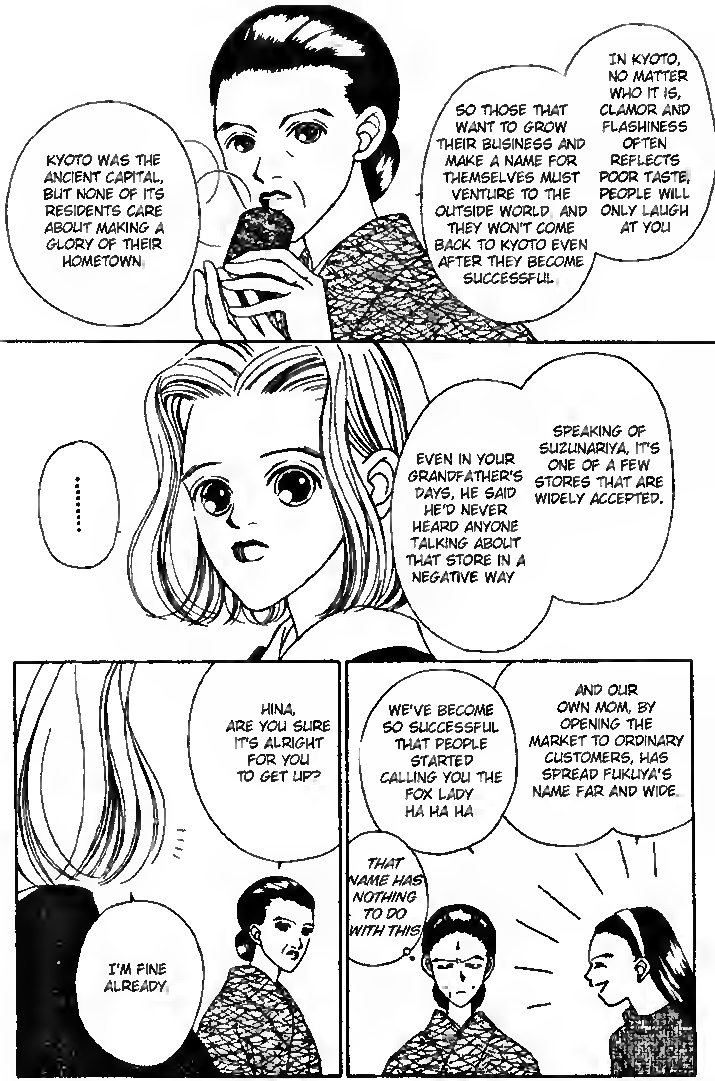
STEPPING INTO THE NEW MILLENNIUM

THE INTERVIEW OF SUZUNARIYA'S PRESIDENT, HINOYAMA SAKUSOU

Suzunariya's new business endeavor for the new millennium

[Hinoyama Sakusau]

ARARE-CHAN, LET ME SEE IT, TOO.
IS THAT SO?
SPECIAL SCOOP ! THE BIOGRAPHY OF THE PEOPLE IN THE KYOTO BUSINESS CIRCLE.
THE GRANDPA HINOYAMA IS IN THERE TOO.
FOR THE PEOPLE HERE IN KYOTO, SUZUNARIYA ISN'T THAT SPECIAL
It's really him
Here


KYOTO WAS THE ANCIENT CAPITAL, BUT NONE OF ITS RESIDENTS CARE ABOUT MAKING A GLORY OF THEIR HOMETOWN.
SO THOSE THAT WANT TO GROW THEIR BUSINESS AND MAKE A NAME FOR THEMSELVES MUST VENTURE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, AND THEY WON'T COME BACK TO KYOTO EVEN AFTER THEY BECOME SUCCESSFUL.
IN KYOTO, NO MATTER WHO IT IS, CLAMOR AND FLASHINESS OFTEN REFLECTS POOR TASTE. PEOPLE WILL ONLY LAUGH AT YOU.
.....
EVEN IN YOUR GRANDFATHER'S DAYS, HE SAID HE'D NEVER HEARD ANYONE TALKING ABOUT THAT STORE IN A NEGATIVE WAY.
SPEAKING OF SUZUNARIYA, IT'S ONE OF A FEW STORES THAT ARE WIDELY ACCEPTED.
HINA, ARE YOU SURE IT'S ALRIGHT FOR YOU TO GET UP?
I'M FINE ALREADY.
WE'VE BECOME SO SUCCESSFUL THAT PEOPLE STARTED CALLING YOU THE FOX LADY HA HA HA
AND OUR OWN MOM, BY OPENING THE MARKET TO ORDINARY CUSTOMERS, HAS SPREAD FUKUYA'S NAME FAR AND WIDE.
THAT NAME HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.

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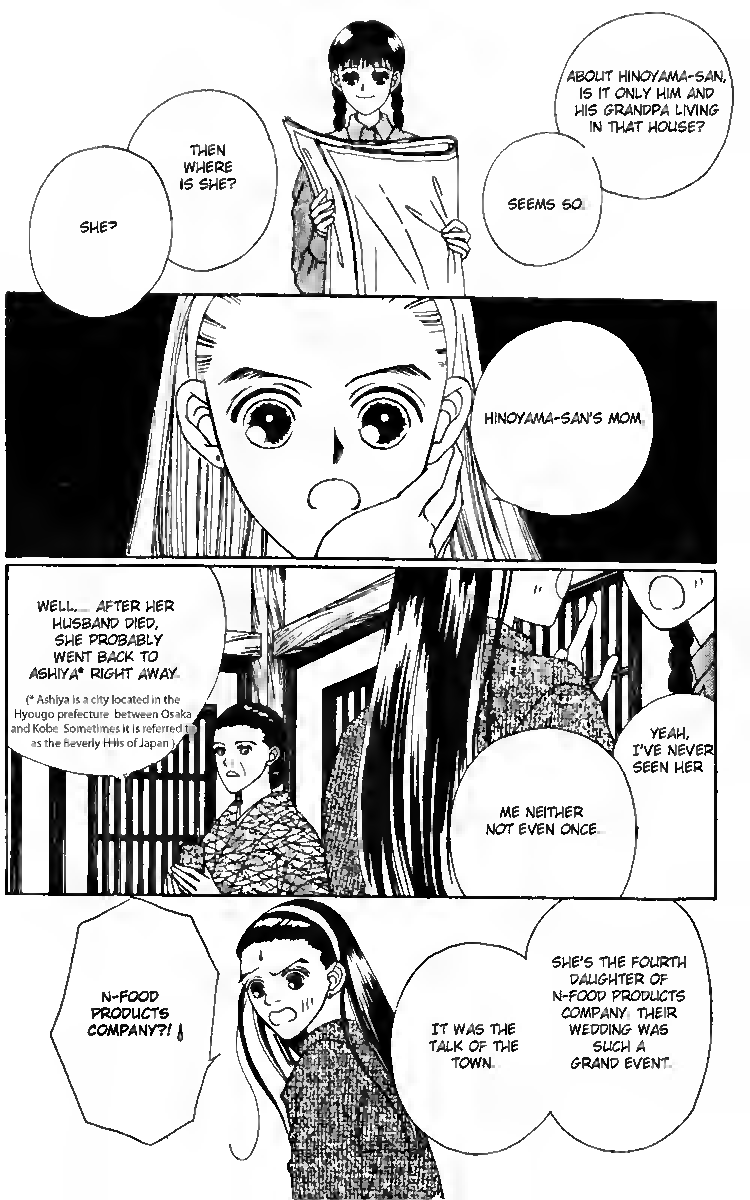

ABOUT HINOYAMA-SAN, IS IT ONLY HIM AND HIS GRANDPA LIVING IN THAT HOUSE?
SEEMS SO.
THEN WHERE IS SHE?
SHE?
HINOYAMA-SAN'S MOM.
WELL... AFTER HER HUSBAND DIED, SHE PROBABLY WENT BACK TO ASHIYA* RIGHT AWAY.
(* Ashiya is a city located in the Hyougo prefecture between Osaka and Kobe. Sometimes it is referred to as the Beverly Hills of Japan.)
YEAH, I'VE NEVER SEEN HER
ME NEITHER. NOT EVEN ONCE.
N-FOOD PRODUCTS COMPANY?!
IT WAS THE TALK OF THE TOWN.
SHE'S THE FOURTH DAUGHTER OF N-FOOD PRODUCTS COMPANY. THEIR WEDDING WAS SUCH A GRAND EVENT.

N-FOOD PRODUCTS COMPANY? AS IN N-INSTANT FOOD?
YEAH, IT'S THE COMPANY THAT INTRODUCED THE FIRST INSTANT NOODLE
THEIR BRAND HOLDS THE LARGEST MARKET SHARE NOW.
EH? THEN HINOYAMA-SAN IS THE GRANDSON OF BOTH SUZUNARIYA'S OWNER AND N-FOOD'S OWNER?!
YES, HE'S THE DEFINITION OF WHAT YOU CALL "BORN WITH A SILVER SPOON IN HIS MOUTH".
WHAT'S HINOYAMA-SAN'S MOTHER LIKE?
I ONLY HAVE SEEN HER ONCE OR TWICE FROM AFAR WHEN SHE WAS SITTING IN THE BACKSEAT OF A CAR
I'VE NO IDEA WHAT SHE'S LIKE IN PERSON.

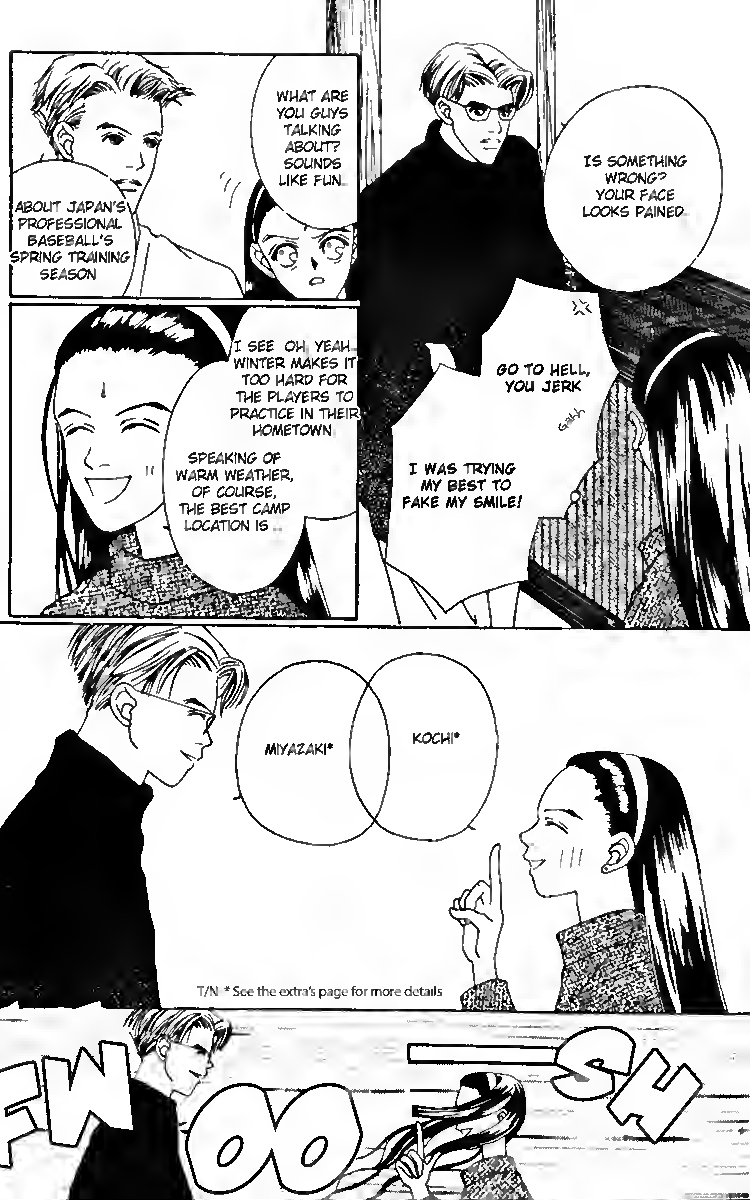
AND, AND, WHAT THEY SAY, IS IT TRUE THAT A MADAM FROM ASHIYA WON'T SPEAK KANSAI DIALECT?
YOU BET!
GIVE ME A BREAK. LOOK AT HINOYAMA-SAN!
THE DAUGHTER OF N-FOOD'S OWNER MUST BE A VERY REFINED PERSON.
WOW! SOUNDS SO MYSTERIOUS. MY INTEREST IS PIQUED.
THANK YOU I'LL GET CHANGED AND BE OUT SOON.
HINA, HINOYAMA-SAN IS HERE TO SEE YOU.
BUT SOMETIMES YOU CAN STILL TELL BY THEIR STRANGE ACCENT.
.....
IT'S OKAY. I'M FINE.
ARE YOU SURE? YOU STILL HAVE A FEVER.

SHOULD WE DESTROY ONEE-CHAN'S WEDDING?
EH ?!
WH- WHAT?
SHE'S GOING TO CAUSE TROUBLE AGAIN.
THAT KIND OF MAN, HE LACKS THE QUALIFICATIONS.
THE WORST KIND OF MAN.

LACKS THE QUALIFICATIONS? DIDN'T MOM JUST SAY HE WAS BORN WITH A SILVER SPOON IN HIS MOUTH?
IN WHICH ASPECT IS HE LACKING?
I'LL MARRY A MORE PERFECT MAN THAN HIM
YOU MEAN KENJI-SAN?
PLEASE LEAVE ME OUT OF THIS.
INCREDIBLE.
.....

NEVERTHELESS .

TO HEAR ARARE-CHAN TALK ABOUT THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A MAN SHE WANTS TO MARRY
I THOUGHT SHE WASN'T SOMEONE WHO CARED ABOUT THAT STUFF.
HELLO
WELCOME
AWW... HINOYAMA-SAN, YOU COME HERE QUITE OFTEN, DON'T YOU?


WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT? SOUNDS LIKE FUN.
ABOUT JAPAN'S PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL'S SPRING TRAINING SEASON
IS SOMETHING WRONG? YOUR FACE LOOKS PAINED.
GO TO HELL, YOU JERK
GRRR
I WAS TRYING MY BEST TO FAKE MY SMILE!
I SEE. OH, YEAH. WINTER MAKES IT TOO HARD FOR THE PLAYERS TO PRACTICE IN THEIR HOMETOWN.
SPEAKING OF WARM WEATHER, OF COURSE, THE BEST CAMP LOCATION IS ...
MIYAZAKI*
KOCHI*
T/N * See the extra's page for more details
FWOOSH

AND LET ME GUESS, ARARE-SAN IS A HANSHIN TIGERS FAN*.
YOU MUST BE A KYOJINS FAN*.
HMM, YEAH. IT'S NATURAL THAT THE INFLUENCE OF THE "O-N CANNON*" DIDN'T REACH ARARE-SAN'S GENERATION
AREN'T THOSE THE FAVORITES OF PEOPLE FROM THE POST-WAR PERIOD? YOU'RE NOT FROM THAT ERA EITHER!
NO WONDER YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THE TERM "KYOJIN, TAIHOU, TAMA-GOYAKI!*"
THEN PERHAPS HINOYAMA-SAN DOESN'T KNOW THE GOLDEN ERA OF KAKEFU-OKADA*?

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T/N * See the extra's page for hardcore baseball explanations and more

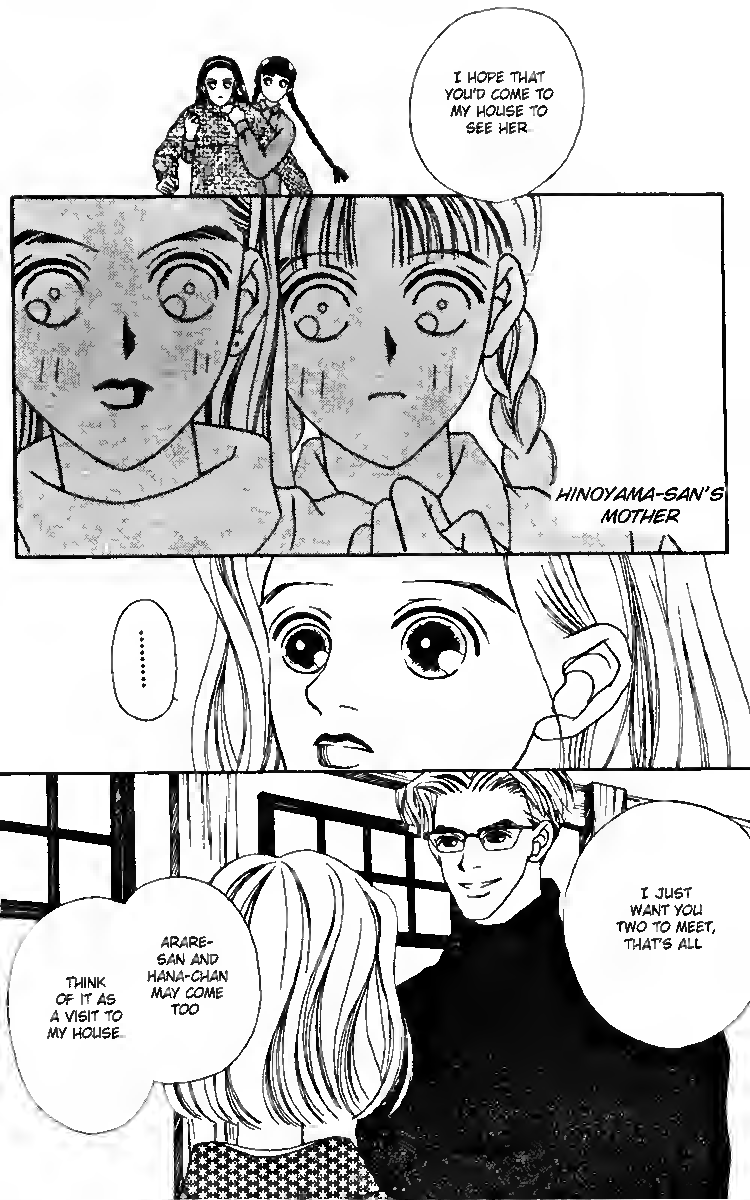
OH. ACTUALLY I DID. ON TV. THEY PLAYED MARVELOUSLY.
HOW ABOUT THE MATCH WHEN THE TIGERS WON THE JAPAN SERIES IN 1985? IT WAS SPECTACULAR. TOO BAD YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T SEE IT.
HOWEVER..
YEAH, YEAH I STILL REMEMBER MAKIHARA'S FACE*.
I WAS WAITING EXPECTANTLY MYSELF.
THAT MATCH WAS TRULY INCREDIBLE.
People should stop doing that
THE CELEBRATORY LEAP INTO DOTONBORI CANAL* WAS SOMETHING ELSE..
BASS*, KAKEFU, OKADA, THESE THREE ARE ABSOLUTELY NOT TO BE DISGRACED!!

YOU WENT TOO FAR!
A KANSAI PERSON GOTTA ROOT FOR A KANSAI TEAM LIKE THE HYOUGO HANSHIN TIGERS, THE OSAKA KINTETSU BUFFALOES, OR THE KOBE ORIX BLUE WAVE!
FOR SOCCER IT SHOULD BE THE KYOTO'S PURPLE SANGA,
OR THE GAMBA OSAKA, OR THE VISSEL KOBE.
AND RUGBY SHOULD BE KOBELCO STEELERS
KEN-CHAN, WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TEAM?
THE OSAKA DAIEI HAWKS•...
I'VE WATCHED THEM SINCE I WAS A CHILD.
TOTALLY REASONABLE!

.....
ARARE-SAN, YOU'RE...
AN OSAKA MAN ROOTING FOR DAIEI IS SO ROMANTIC.
REALLY A KANSAI PERSON
CRACK
CRACK

T/N Please be noted that in this manga all the main characters speak in the Kansai dialect except Hiroyama-san. He speaks standard Japanese. It's going to matter later
SHUDDUP!! AREN'T YOU A KANSAI PERSON TOO?! SPEAK KANSAI DIALECT* MORON!!!
Please calm down
Let me go, Hana!

HI.
SORRY FOR LAST TIME.
NEVER MIND. IT WAS MY FAULT.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE TODAY?
ARE YOU FREE ON SATURDAY?
EH...?
WELL, MY MOTHER IS COMING TO KYOTO THAT DAY. IF IT'S CONVENIENT..


I HOPE THAT YOU'D COME TO MY HOUSE TO SEE HER
HINOYAMA-SAN'S MOTHER
.....
I JUST WANT YOU TWO TO MEET, THAT'S ALL
ARARE-SAN AND HANA-CHAN MAY COME TOO
THINK OF IT AS A VISIT TO MY HOUSE

LET'S GO
LET'S GO
GO GO
THEN, IF YOU DON'T MIND, IT'LL BE THE THREE OF US.
VISITING TEAHOUSES?

I CAN SMELL TROUBLE FROM A MILE AWAY, KEN-CHAN
HMM, BUT ISN'T VISITING TEAHOUSES SOMETHING KYOTO ENTREPRENEURS HAVE ALWAYS DONE?
I DON'T THINK IT'S A BIG DEAL THAT HINOYAMA-SAN IS ONE OF THEM.
THAT'S NOT WHAT IRKED ME
BUT HAVING A WOMAN MESSING WITH ONEE-CHAN IS DEFINITELY A PROBLEM
.....
ONEE-CHAN TOO. SHE'S ON A BRINK OF MARRYING THAT MAN,
YET SHE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT HIM
.....
LOOK AT THE STORY ABOUT HOW HIS FATHER DIED IN AN ACCIDENT FOR AN EXAMPLE. IF I DIDN'T TELL HER, SHE WOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN
HOW ABOUT MOM? AN ACCIDENT?
SHE GOT HIT BY A CAR?

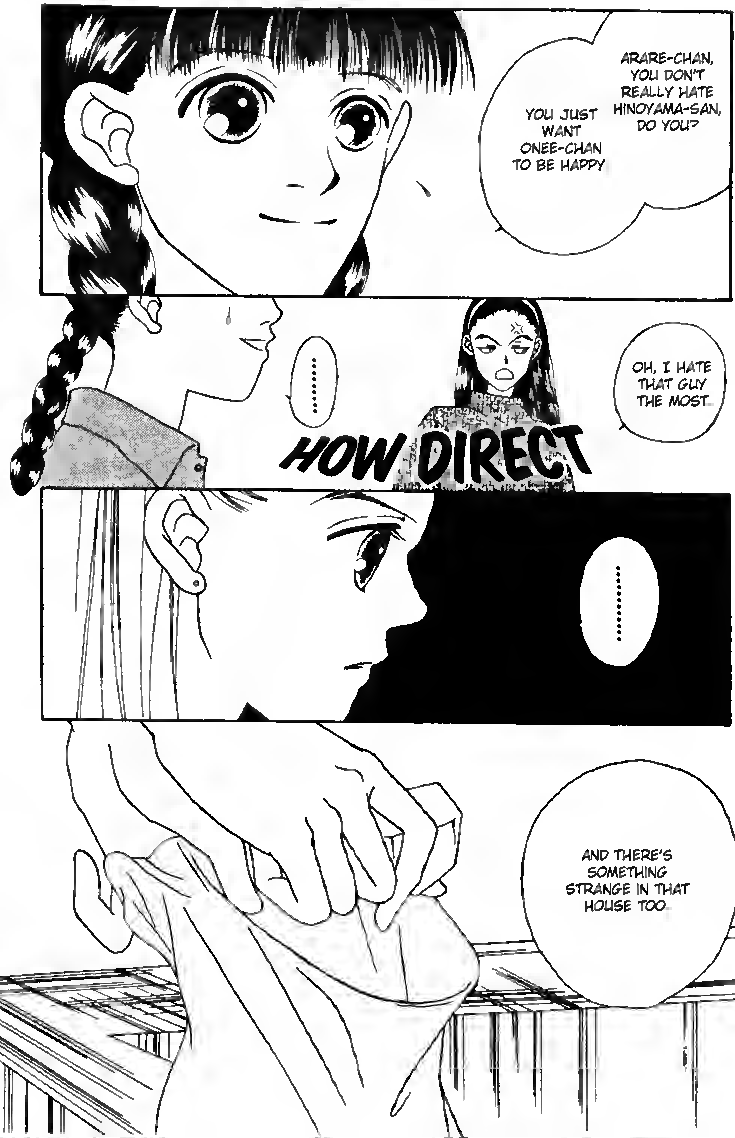
I'M FEELING TIRED AL-READY
OH, IT'S OKAY. THIS IS EMBARRASSING
WHY DON'T YOU GO INSIDE?
I'LL NEVER BE ON GOOD TERMS WITH THAT GUY,
ESPECIALLY NOW THAT I KNOW HE'S A KYOJINS FAN.
.....

NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU DISLIKE HINOYAMA-SAN, DON'T SPEAK ILL OF HIS FATHER IN FRONT OF HIM
IT'S RUDE.
HMM...?
KEN-CHAN
.....
N-NOTHING.
G-GOOD NIGHT.
?

CLINK
CLINK
CLINK
I ALMOST OFFENDED HIM
WHAT A STUPID QUESTION
HOW COULD HE AFFORD IT WITH HIS CURRENT SALARY?
ARARE-CHAN
ONEE-CHAN'S FEVER HAS RETURNED AGAIN
.....

THAT COLD-HEARTED JERK
AND HE'S A KYOJINS FAN OF ALL THINGS, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
.....
I TOLD HER NOT TO SEE THAT MAN AGAIN
AND DID SHE LISTEN TO ME? NO.
ONEE-CHAN CAN DO MUCH BETTER THAN HIM
.....
MAY I ASK WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT HIM?
AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE WERE JUST AN ORDINARY FAMILY.
BUT NONE OF THEM EVER WENT TO ENTERTAIN THEMSELVES AT TEAHOUSES
OUR GRANDFATHER AND DAD WERE WELL-TO-DO ENTREPRENEURS AS WELL

WHAT ABOUT OUR SISTER? SHE WAS BORN IN AN ORDINARY HOME. DO YOU THINK THEY WILL MAKE IT FAR WITH THEIR DIFFERENCES?
WITH HIS WEALTH, HE CAN AFFORD TO TAKE ANOTHER GIRL UNDER HIS PATRONAGE IF HE FANCIES.
BUT LOOK AT HINOYAMA-SAN, AT THIS AGE HE'S ALREADY A FREQUENT CUSTOMER OF TEAHOUSES.
NOT TO MENTION THAT TROUBLESOME WOMAN BUTTING IN.
BUT I DOUBT THEY ARE AS SINCERE AS US.
THAT GUY'S FAMILY MIGHT BE OLD AND RICH,
THE BEST GUY FOR HER IS SOMEONE WHO IS GENUINE AND SINCERE WITH HER.
SHE WON'T MIND IF HER GUY DOESN'T HAVE AS MUCH AS A PENNY IN HIS POCKET.
ONEE-CHAN IS AN ANGEL, EVER TRUSTING.


ARARE-CHAN, YOU DON'T REALLY HATE HINOYAMA-SAN, DO YOU?
YOU JUST WANT ONEE-CHAN TO BE HAPPY
.....
OH, I HATE THAT GUY THE MOST.
HOW DIRECT
.....
AND THERE'S SOMETHING STRANGE IN THAT HOUSE TOO.

HIS MOTHER WENT BACK TO HER SIDE OF FAMILY RIGHT AFTER HIS FATHER DIED.
HOW COME HE DIDN'T GO WITH HER?
BACK THEN HINOYAMA-SAN WAS ONLY A CHILD
A MOTHER SHOULD TAKE HER SON WITH HER WHEN SHE LEAVES, RIGHT?
AND EVEN THOUGH THEY DON'T LIVE TOGETHER, HER MOTHER DIDN'T SHOW HER FACE EVEN ON HER SON'S ENGAGEMENT DAY
.....

THAT HOUSE
MUST HAVE A LOT OF HIDDEN MYSTERIES WE DON'T KNOW...

EXTRA

Because I'm a baseball fan, I couldn't help but going all-out with baseball research.

PG.20
KOCHI = One of The Hanshin Tigers' camps is in Kochi Prefecture, on Shikoku Island.
MIYAZAKI = Sun Marine Stadium in Miyazaki prefecture is the Yomiuri Giants' spring training home.

PG.21
KYOJIN is a nickname for The Yomiuri Giants, a professional baseball team based in Tokyo. The team is often regarded as "The New York Yankees of Japan".

THE HANSHIN TIGERS are a professional Baseball team based in Hyougo prefecture. The Tigers are often portrayed as the Japanese's Boston Red Sox.

O-N CANNON refers to the hitting combination of Sadahara Oh and Nagashima Shigeo that brought the Giants 9 pennants between 1965 and 1973.

EXTRA (CONT.)

PG.21 (CONT.)

KYOJIN, TAIHOU, TAMAGOYAKI

The three best things that Japanese people loved in 1970s and also a symbol of strength in those days.

- **KYOJIN** means Tokyo Giants (Giants = Kyojin-gun), which won 9 consecutive Japan series titles.
- **TAIHOU** refers to Taihou Kouki a legendary sumo wrestler of the post war period. He won a record 32 tournaments between 1960 and 1971.
- **TAMAGOYAKI** is a type of Japanese omelet. After WWII, it was one of the favorite homemade meals in every home.

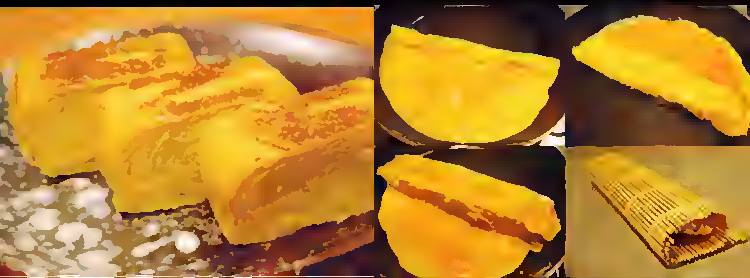
KAKEFU MASAYUKI AND OKADA AKINOBU

were two best homerun hitters of Hanshin Tigers during the 80s.

PG.22

MAKIHARA HIROMI was one of the Giants' pitchers during that time.

RANDY WILLIAM BASS is a former Hanshin Tigers' baseball player. He holds a special spot in a Hanshin's fan's heart as the star slugger of the Hanshin in their first and only victory in the Japan Series.



EXTRA (CONT.)

PG.22 (CONT.)

THE CELEBRATORY LEAP INTO DOTONBORI CANAL
After their 1985 Japan Series win, Fans celebrated by having people who looked like The Tigers players jump into the Dotonbori Canal. According to legend, because none of the Fans resembled First baseman Randy Bass, Fans grabbed a life-sized statue of Kentucky Fried Chicken Mascot Colonel Sanders and threw it into the river (like Bass, the Colonel had a beard and was not Japanese). Since then, Fans have said they would never win another Japan Series until the statue was recovered.

The incident was repeated whenever the Tigers were close to winning the title. In 2003, Fans were enthusiastic about winning the Central League, and over 5,300 Fans plunged into the canal. Many KFC outlets in Kobe and Osaka moved their Colonel Sanders statues inside until the series was over to protect them From rabid Tigers Fans. The newly replaced Colonel Sanders statue in the Dotonbori KFC branch was bolted down to prevent a repeat of the incident.

The statue was discovered on March 10, 2009 in the canal by construction crew while building a new walkway. However, The Tigers' championship remains at large.

(Source: Wikipedia)

PG.24

THE OSAKA DAIEI HAWKS were a Japanese baseball team based in Osaka. Later it was moved to Fukuoka. After being bought by SoftBank Corporation, the name was changed to Fukuoka SoftBank Hawks.

YAYOMI YUCHI

遊知 やよみ

FukuyaDouHonpo

福家堂本舗

5

Fukuyadō Honpo
福家堂本舗
The Mystery of Hinoyama House (2)

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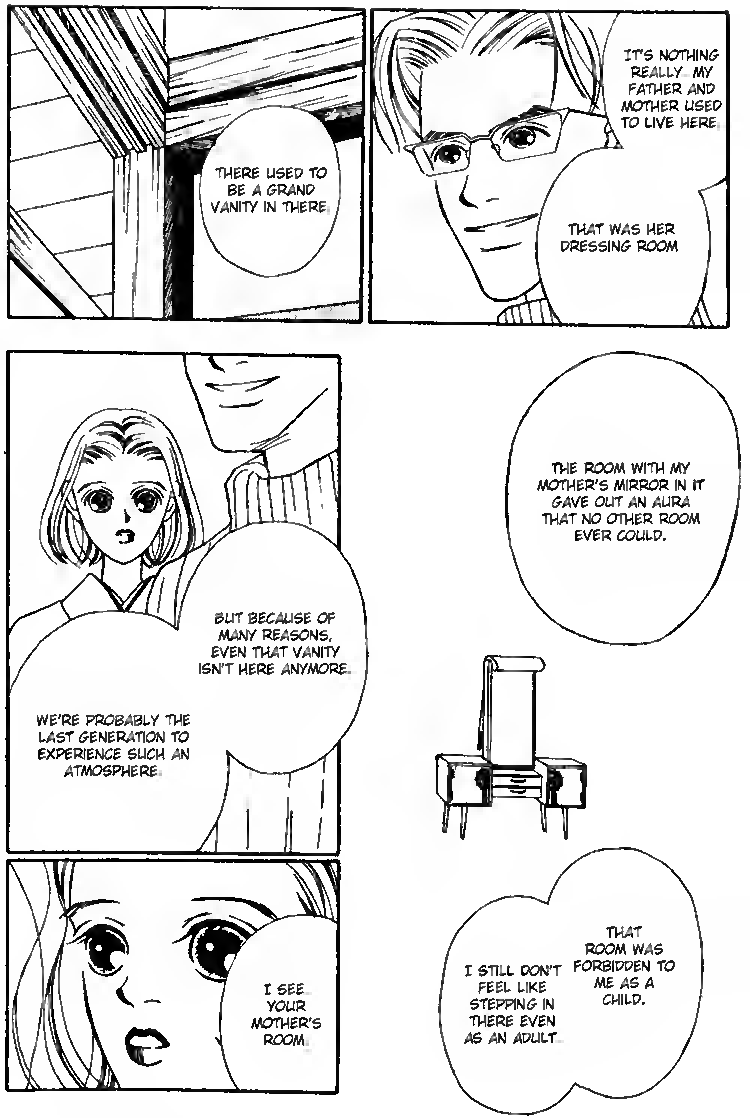
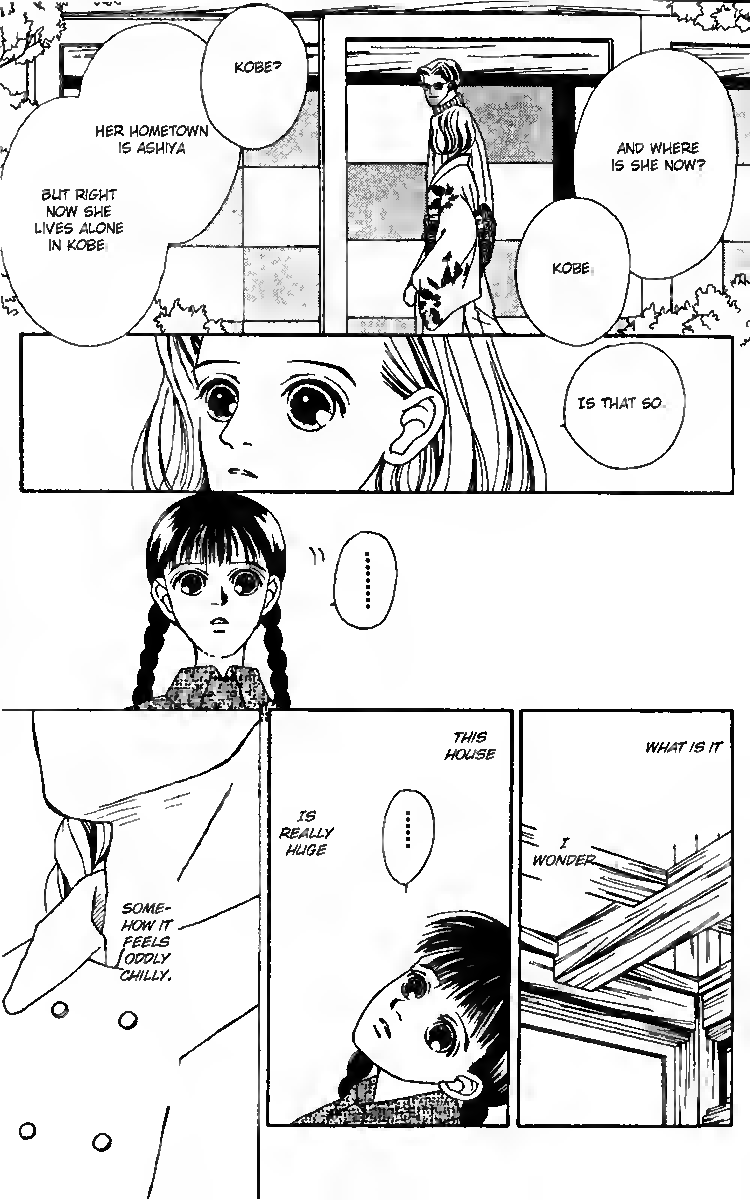
.....
WHAT, HANA?
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN INSIDE HINOYAMA-SAN'S HOUSE
I'M THE SAME AS YOU.
HAVEN'T YOU DELIVERED WAGASHI HERE BEFORE?
NOPE. ONEE-CHAN'S THE ONLY ONE WHO HAS DELIVERED HERE.
BUT...
ARARE-CHAN ...

JUMP
BORED?
IS RED TEA OKAY?
WE'RE FINE, YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BOTHER.
I'M OKAMURA, THE CARE-TAKER OF THIS HOUSE
THE MADAM SHOULD BE FASHIONABLY LATE AS USUAL
YES. Thank you
HINA-SAN SHOULD BE BACK FROM THE GUESTHOUSE IN A MINUTE
THIS PLACE HASN'T BEEN USED IN 20 YEARS, SO I'D LIKE TO HAVE IT RE-DECORATED.

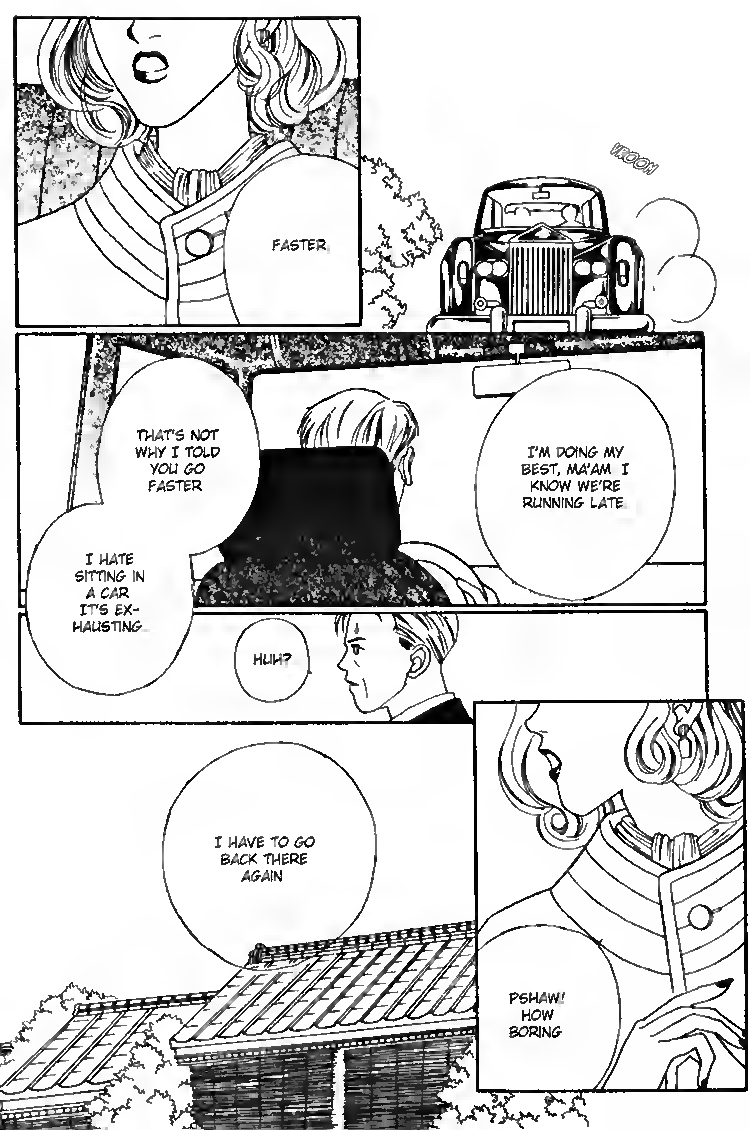
THIS WILL BE A BEDROOM
HINA-SAN, YOU CAN USE THE ADJACENT ROOM AS YOU PLEASE.
I'LL USE THE NEXT ONE AS MY STUDY ROOM.
BUT THE ROOM NEXT DOOR IS MUCH MORE SPACIOUS AND AIRY. ARE YOU SURE?
DON'T WORRY. I'D BE GLAD TO GIVE IT TO YOU. I DON'T LIKE SPENDING TIME IN THERE, ANYWAY.
YOU DON'T?
DON'T TELL ME HINOYAMA-SAN'S HOUSE HAS A...


THERE USED TO BE A GRAND VANITY IN THERE.
IT'S NOTHING REALLY. MY FATHER AND MOTHER USED TO LIVE HERE.
THAT WAS HER DRESSING ROOM.
BUT BECAUSE OF MANY REASONS, EVEN THAT VANITY ISN'T HERE ANYMORE.
WE'RE PROBABLY THE LAST GENERATION TO EXPERIENCE SUCH AN ATMOSPHERE.
THE ROOM WITH MY MOTHER'S MIRROR IN IT GAVE OUT AN AURA THAT NO OTHER ROOM EVER COULD.
I SEE. YOUR MOTHER'S ROOM.
THAT ROOM WAS FORBIDDEN TO ME AS A CHILD.
I STILL DON'T FEEL LIKE STEPPING IN THERE EVEN AS AN ADULT.


KOBE?
HER HOMETOWN IS ASHIYA
BUT RIGHT NOW SHE LIVES ALONE IN KOBE.
AND WHERE IS SHE NOW?
KOBE.
IS THAT SO.
.....
THIS HOUSE
IS REALLY HUGE
.....
WHAT IS IT I WONDER.
SOME-HOW IT FEELS ODDLY CHILLY.

YOU GIRLS CAME ALL THE WAY HERE?
IS THERE SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPENING HERE TODAY?
GOOD AFTERNOON
WELL, TODAY...
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY IS EVERYONE HERE?
WELCOME HOME.
TAMAO
IS COMING OVER?

I MEANT TO.
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME SOONER?
BANG
IT'LL TAKE A WHILE BEFORE I RETURN. TAKE CARE OF TAMAO IN MY ABSENCE, OKAY?
I'M GOING TO THE HOUSE IN ROKKO.
BUT IF I TOLD YOU BEFORE-HAND
YOU DON'T PLAN TO COME BACK AT ALL, DO YOU?
.....
?
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER.

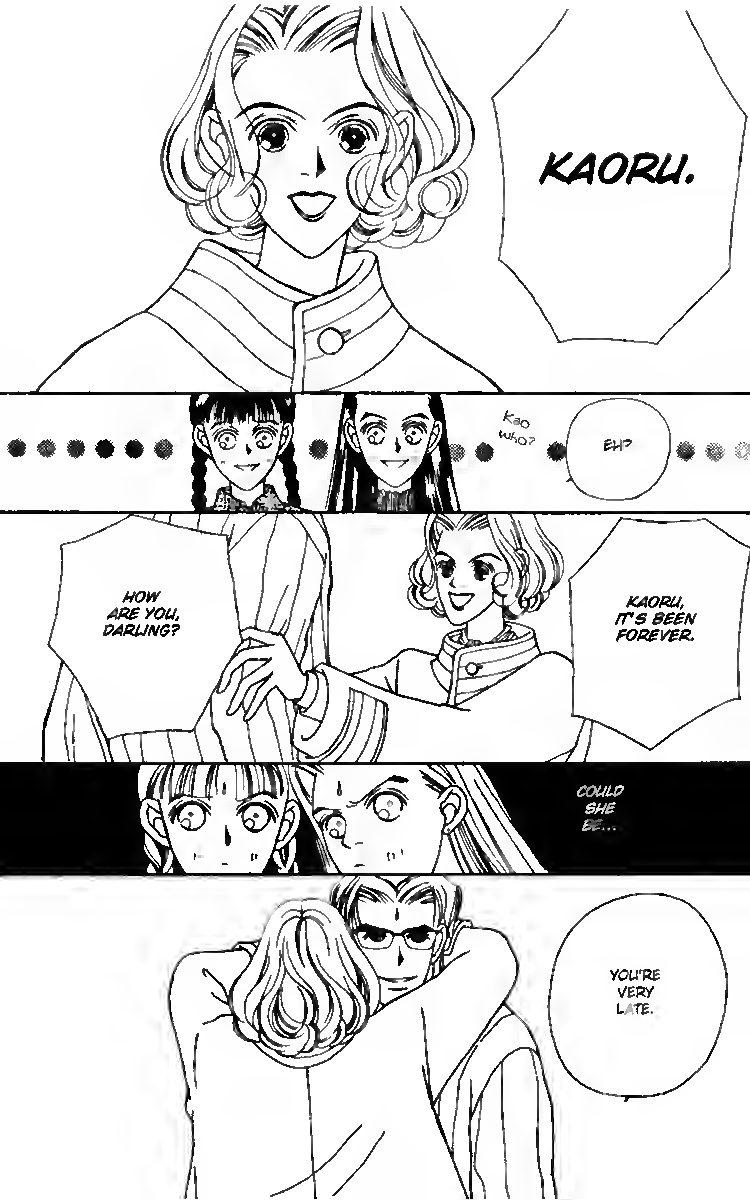

FASTER
VROOM
I'M DOING MY BEST, MA'AM I KNOW WE'RE RUNNING LATE
THAT'S NOT WHY I TOLD YOU GO FASTER
I HATE SITTING IN A CAR IT'S EX-HAUSTING
HUH?
I HAVE TO GO BACK THERE AGAIN
PSHAW! HOW BORING

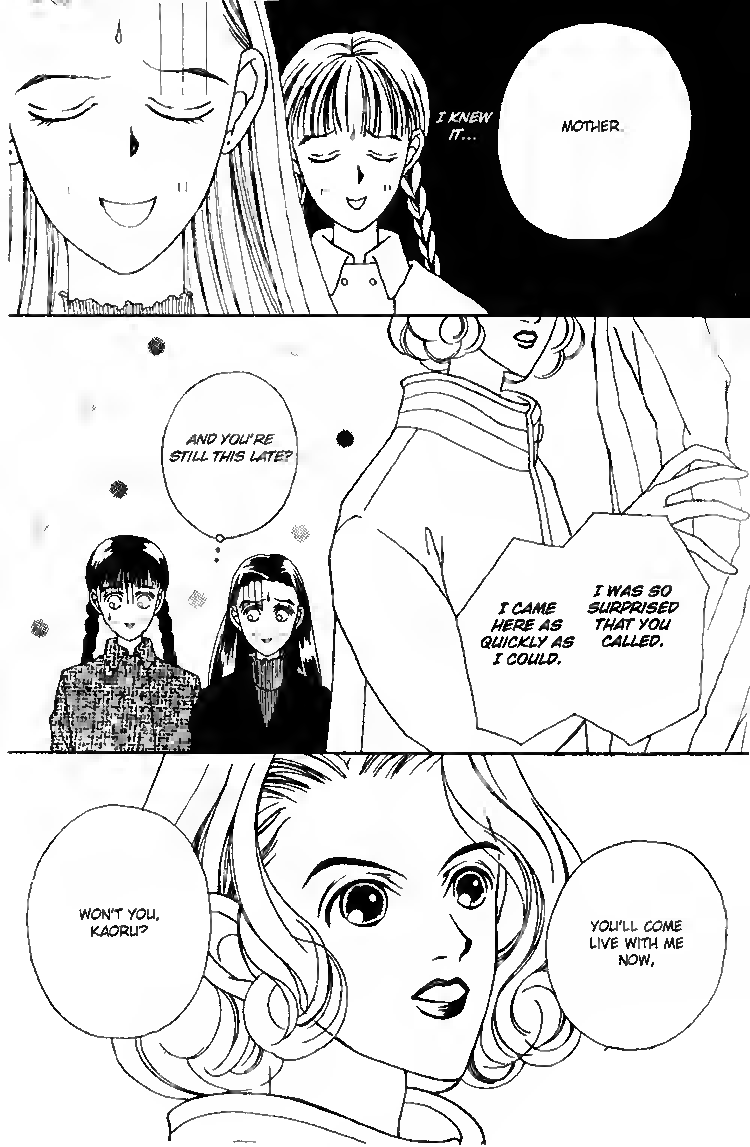
HINOYAMA-SAN.
YES
.....
1
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I JUST HOPE THAT NOTHING BAD HAPPENED TO YOUR MOTHER.
SHE MADE US WAIT FOR 4 HOURS ALREADY.
YOU'RE RIGHT I'M SORRY FOR WASTING YOUR AFTERNOON
IT'S GETTING LATE. IF YOU'LL EXCUSE US...
MAYBE NEXT TIME?

WingtipCafe.com

THANK YOU FOR HAVING US OVER.
EH. .?
I'M SURE SHE'LL BE FINE. SHE'S PROBABLY JUST LATE BECAUSE SHE ISN'T WEARING A WATCH, AS USUAL.
SCREECH
YES.
TAKE CARE.
CRASH

Slide
AN ACCIDENT?
OH, MA'AM, THIS IS WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF.
WE CAN'T DRIVE A CAR ONTO THIS STREET.
ARE YOU SUGGESTING THAT I SHOULD HAVE WALKED IN?
IT WAS FINE THE LAST TIME.
YOUR DRIVING SUCKS. DON'T TRY TO BLAME IT ON THE CAR.
BUT THIS IS A DIFFERENT CAR FROM THE LAST TIME, MA'AM.
HOW ARE THEY?
FINE, I GUESS. THEY LOOK LIVELY TO ME.


KAORU.
Kao who?
EH?
HOW ARE YOU, DARLING?
KAORU, IT'S BEEN FOREVER.
COULD SHE BE...
YOU'RE VERY LATE.


I KNEW IT...
MOTHER.
AND YOU'RE STILL THIS LATE?
I CAME HERE AS QUICKLY AS I COULD.
I WAS SO SURPRISED THAT YOU CALLED.
WON'T YOU, KAORU?
YOU'LL COME LIVE WITH ME NOW,

I WANTED YOU TO MEET HER, SO...
AS I TOLD YOU ON THE PHONE, I'M GETTING MARRIED
I INVITED YOU TO KYOTO...
Yase take care of the car. And I'll crash here for a few days. Come get me later
Yes ma'am.
SHE DOESN'T LISTEN TO WHAT PEOPLE HAVE TO SAY AT ALL
MOTHER
IT'S COLD OUT HERE LET'S GO IN
MY, ARE YOU GETTING TALLER AGAIN?
HEY, HEY, THINK ABOUT HINOYAMA'S AGE FOR A SECOND HERE
He's not getting any taller. Ever.
.....

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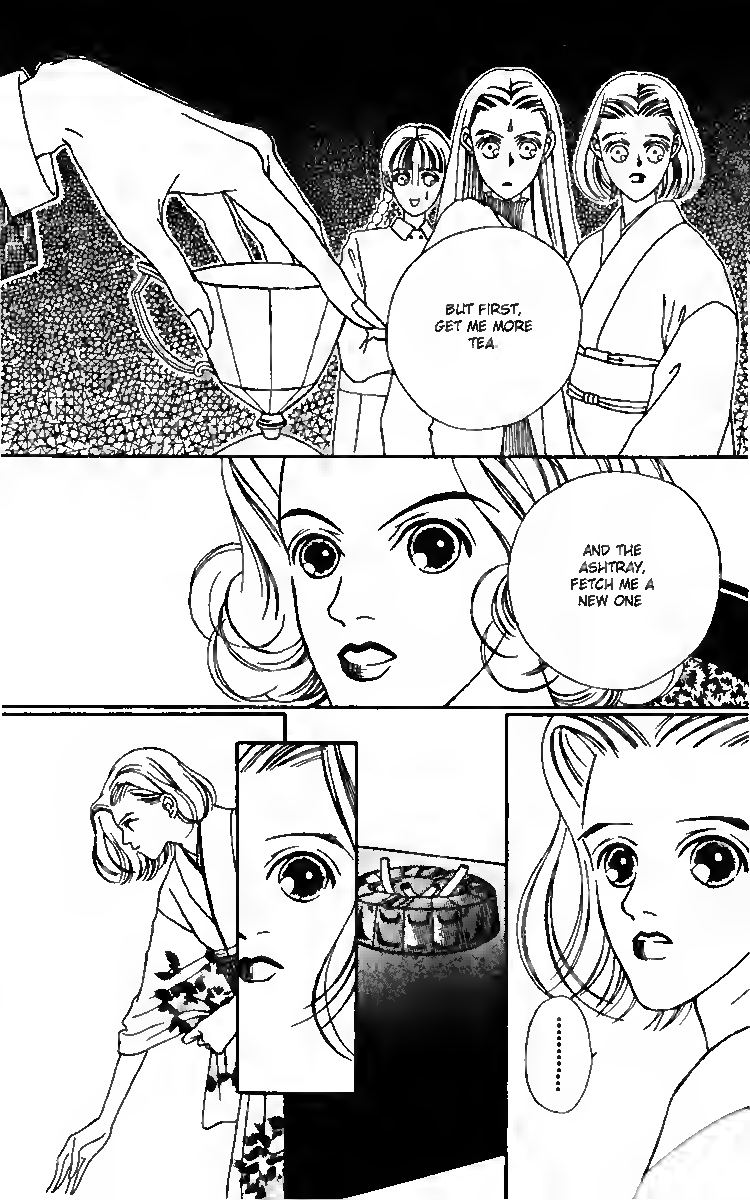
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A CHANCE TO COME TO KYOTO.
WELL, WHERE'S YOUR GRANDFATHER?
HE'S OUT. IT'LL BE AWHILE BEFORE HE COMES BACK.
THEY SELL FABULOUS NISHIJIN* FOR OBI HERE
TO GION OR TO SEE KABUKI?
THE MEN OF THIS FAMILY ARE LIBERTINES BY BLOOD, INCLUDING THE DECEASED.
GEIKO, JOURURI*, WHAT SPENDTHRIFT!
.....
.....

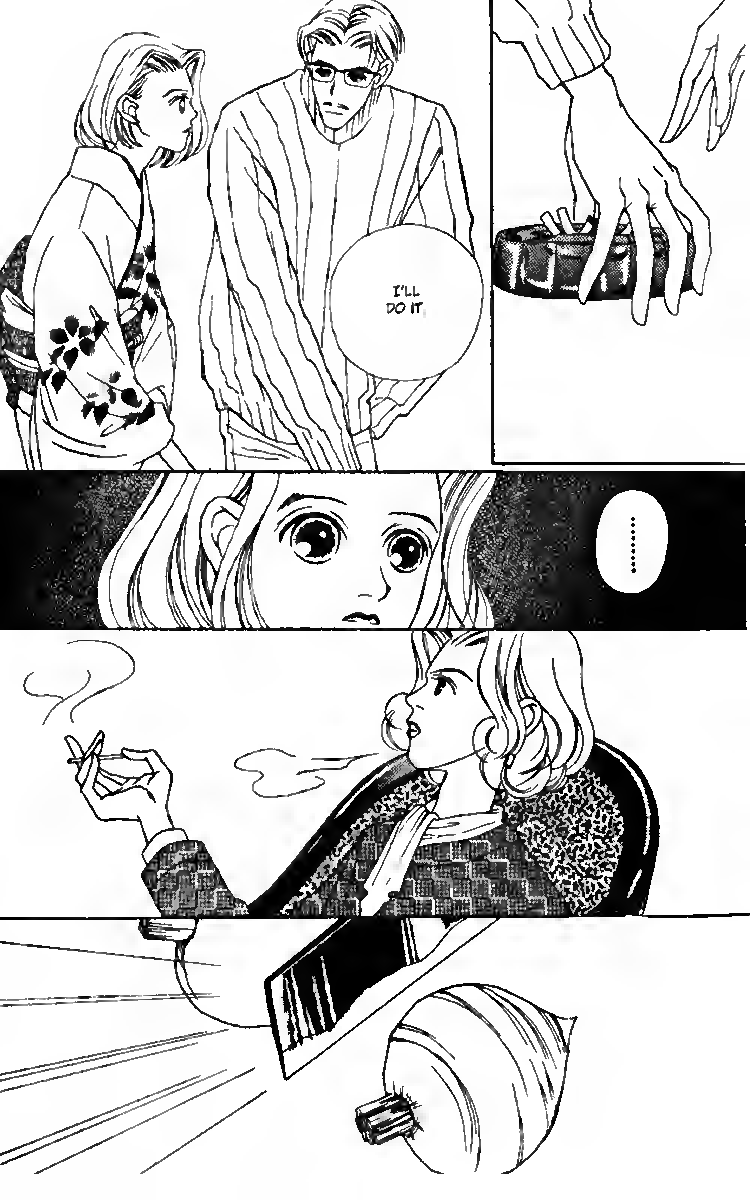
T/N: Nishijin is a traditional textile produced in Kamigyō-ku, Kyoto.

T/N: Joururi, a type of musical narrative with shamisen accompaniment, typically found in a traditional Japanese puppet theatre.

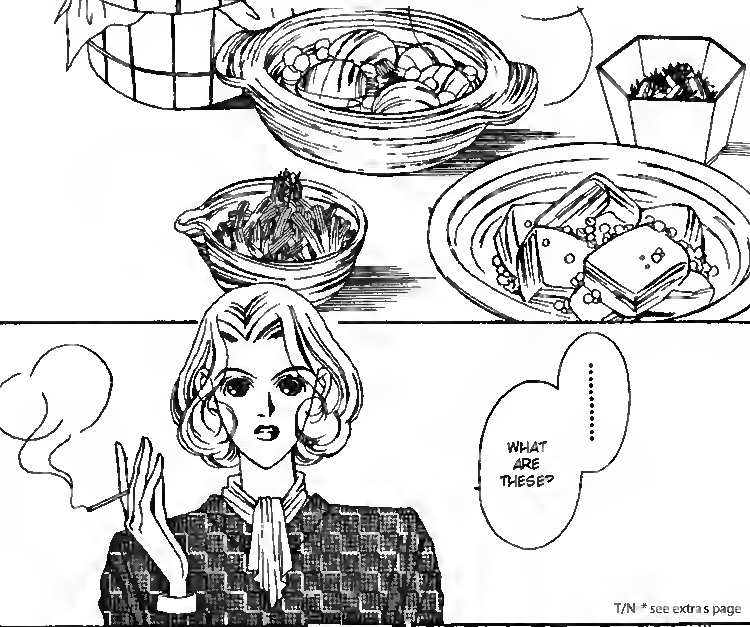
THIS PERSON ...
.....
OUCH, MY HIPS HURT YABE IS SUCH A LOUSY DRIVER.
NEVER MIND I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO HIM ANYWAY
DOESN'T SHE SEE US?
OR ..
.....
I HAVEN'T HAD ANYTHING SINCE BREAKFAST
LET'S HAVE A MEAL TOGETHER HERE
KAORU
MOTHER, I HAVE SOMEONE I'D YOU TO MEET.
OH, I SEE
BUT OKAMURA-SAN HAS ALREADY LEFT
SHE PAID ABSOLUTELY NO HEED TO US

What?!
THEN, YOU GIRLS.
YOU CAN COOK AT LEAST, RIGHT? GO MAKE SOMETHING

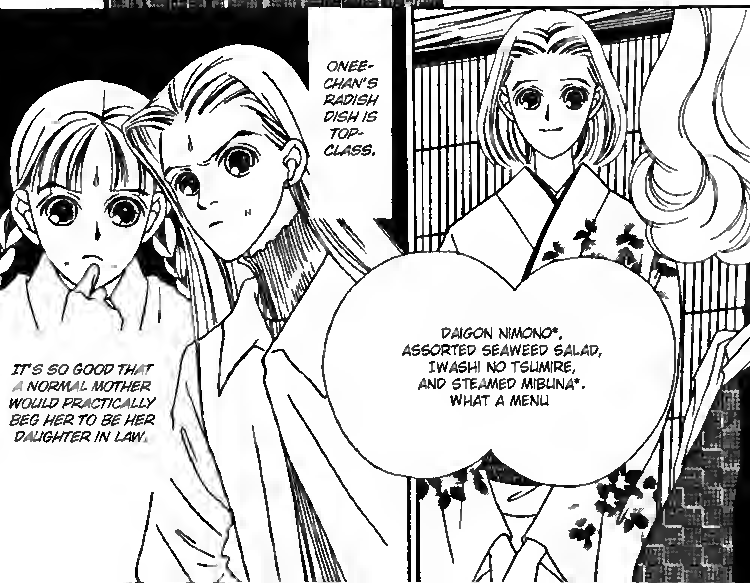

BUT FIRST, GET ME MORE TEA
AND THE ASHTRAY, FETCH ME A NEW ONE
.....

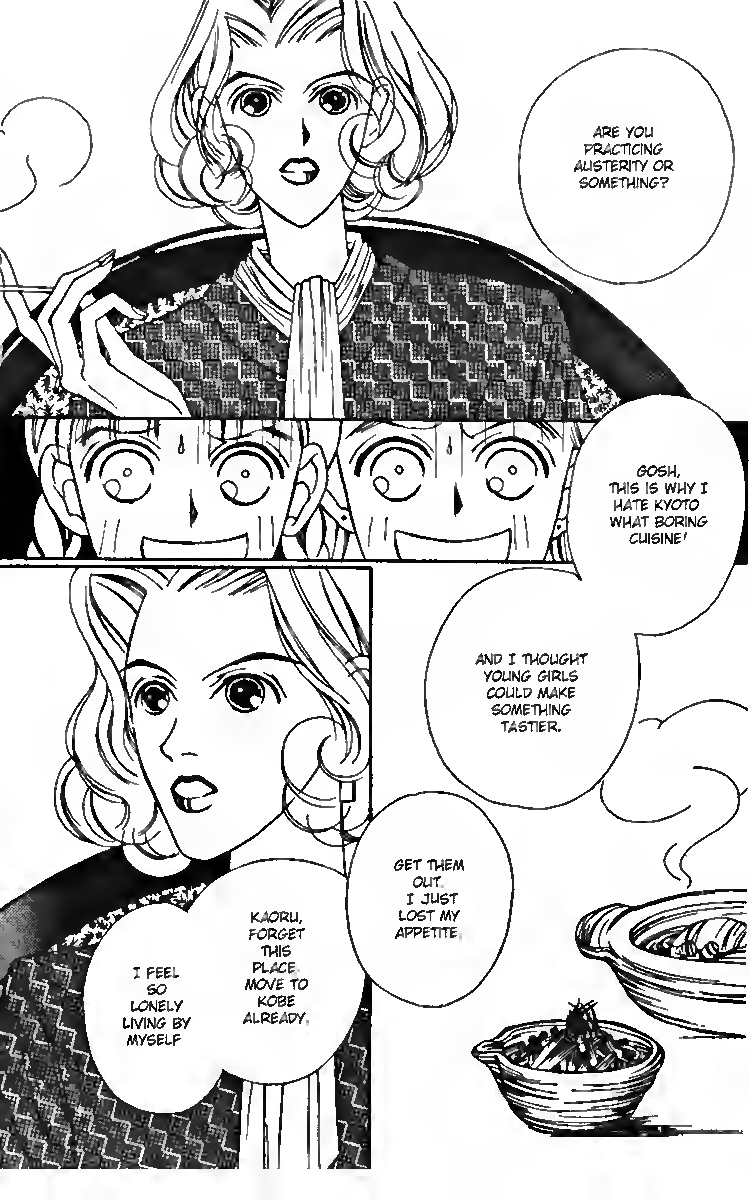

I'LL DO IT
.....

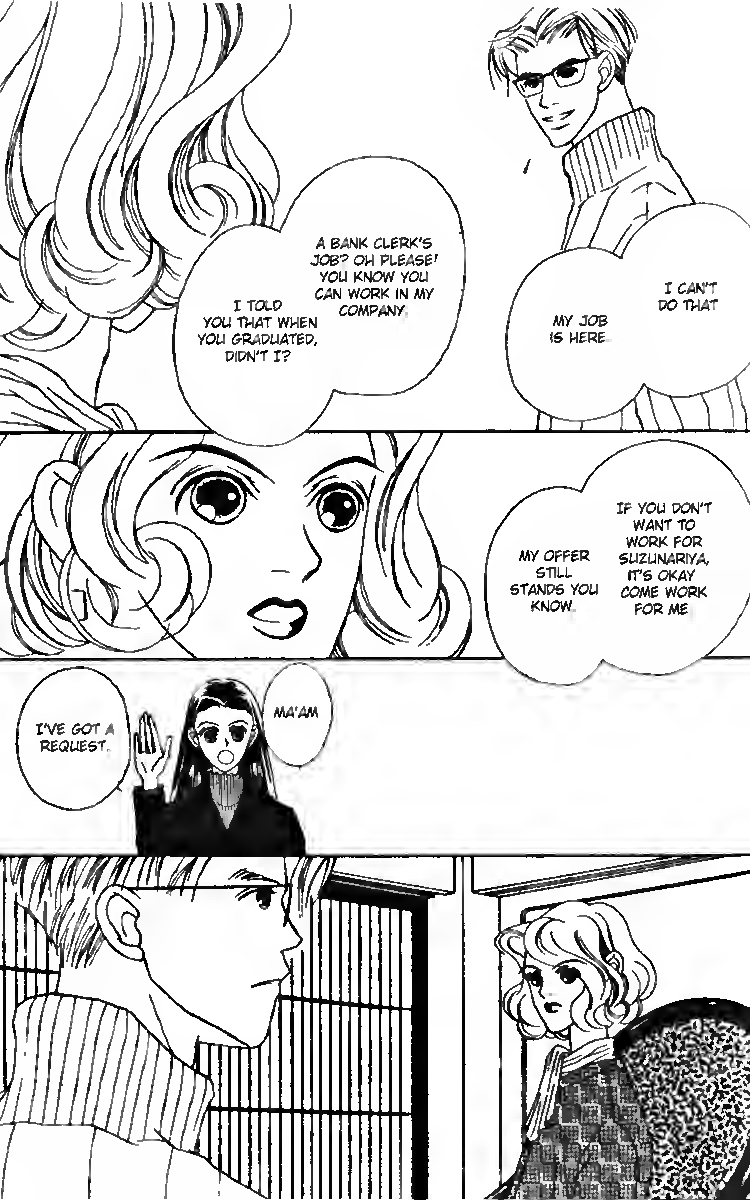
.....
BLUB
BLUB
HINOYAMA-SAN'S MOTHER...
.....
SHE'S REALLY SOMETHING.
.....



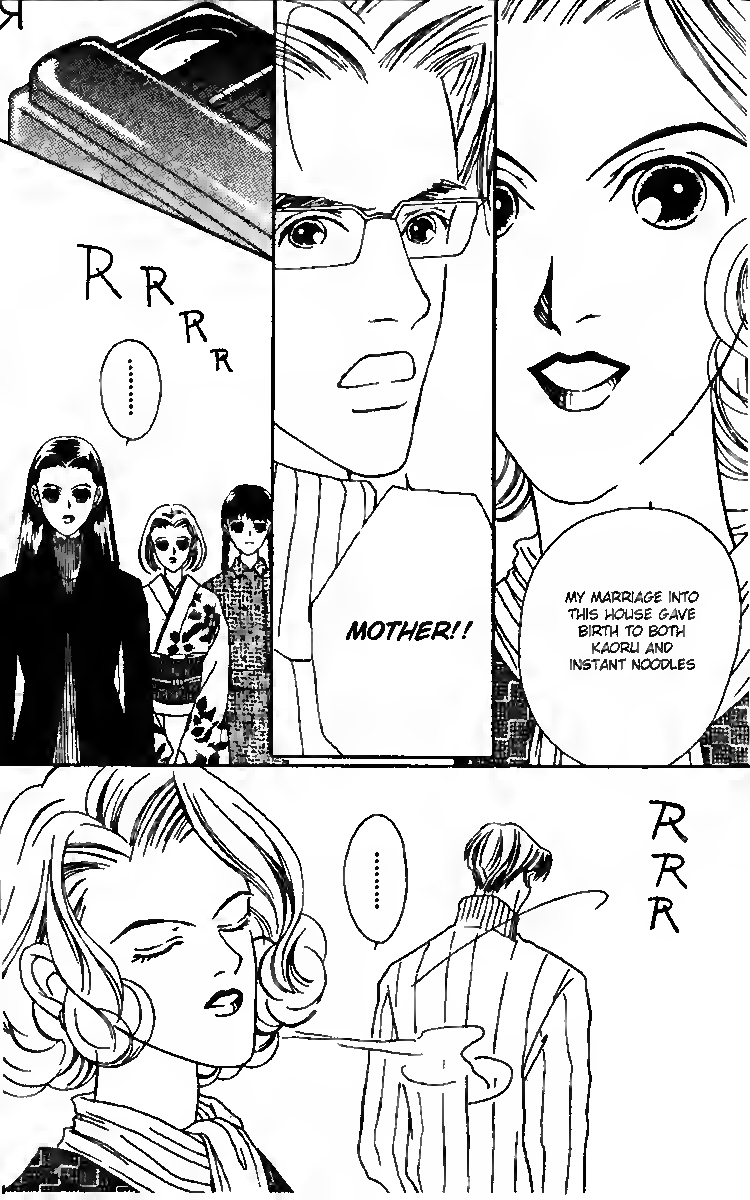
T/N: * see extras page


ONEE-CHAN'S RADISH DISH IS TOP-CLASS.
DAIGON NIMONO*, ASSORTED SEAWEED SALAD, IWASHI NO TSUMIRE, AND STEAMED MIBUNA*. WHAT A MENU
IT'S SO GOOD THAT A NORMAL MOTHER WOULD PRACTICALLY BEG HER TO BE HER DAUGHTER IN LAW.

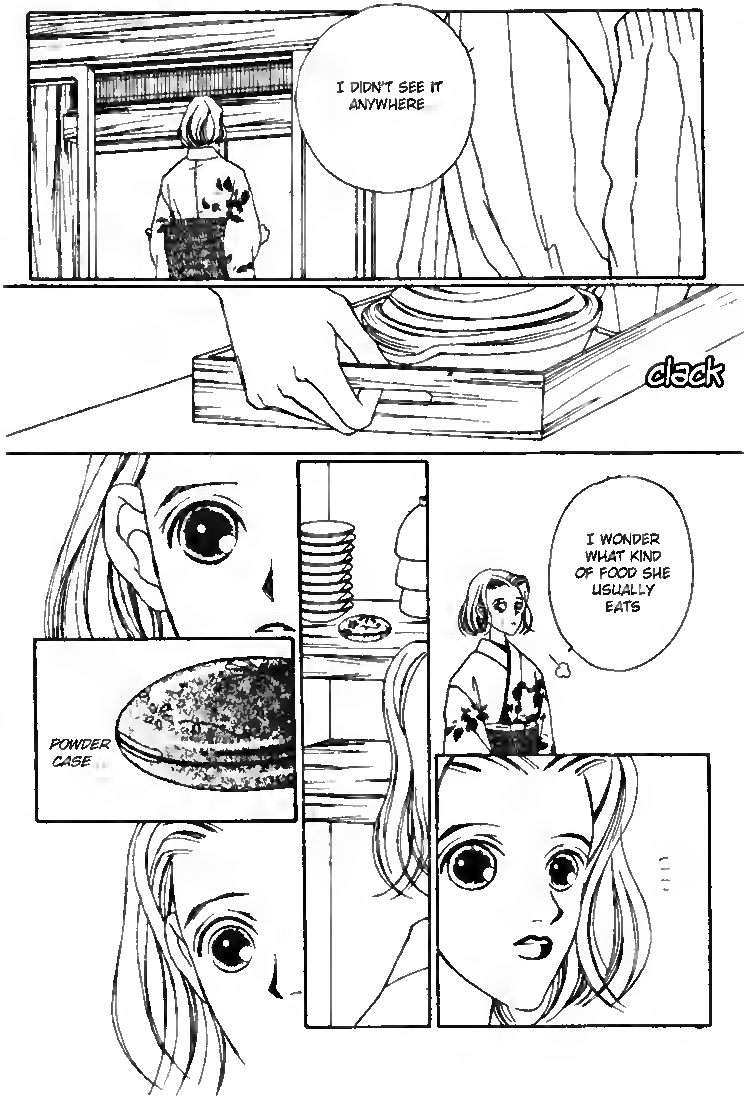

ARE YOU PRACTICING AUSTERITY OR SOMETHING?
GOSH, THIS IS WHY I HATE KYOTO WHAT BORING CUISINE!
AND I THOUGHT YOUNG GIRLS COULD MAKE SOMETHING TASTIER.
GET THEM OUT. I JUST LOST MY APPETITE.
KAORU, FORGET THIS PLACE. MOVE TO KOBE ALREADY.
I FEEL SO LONELY LIVING BY MYSELF

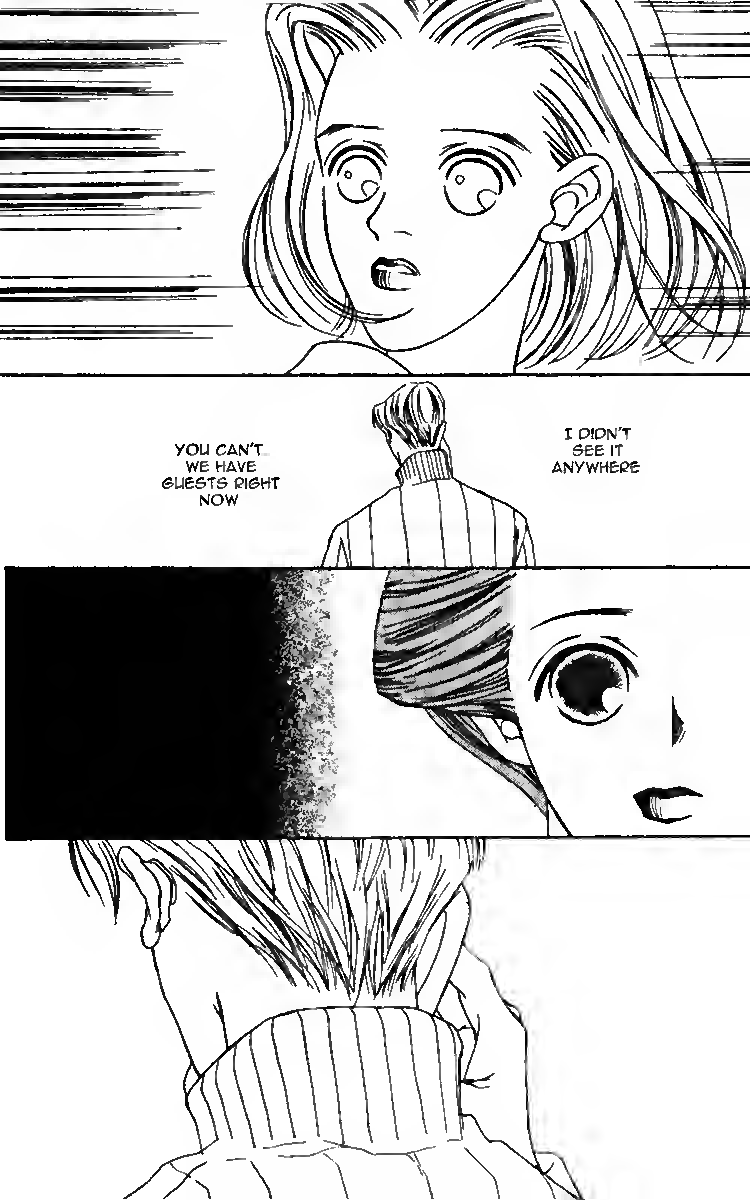

I TOLD YOU THAT WHEN YOU GRADUATED, DIDN'T I?
A BANK CLERK'S JOB? OH PLEASE! YOU KNOW YOU CAN WORK IN MY COMPANY.
I CAN'T DO THAT
MY JOB IS HERE
MY OFFER STILL STANDS YOU KNOW.
IF YOU DON'T WANT TO WORK FOR SUZUNARIYA, IT'S OKAY COME WORK FOR ME
I'VE GOT A REQUEST.
MA'AM

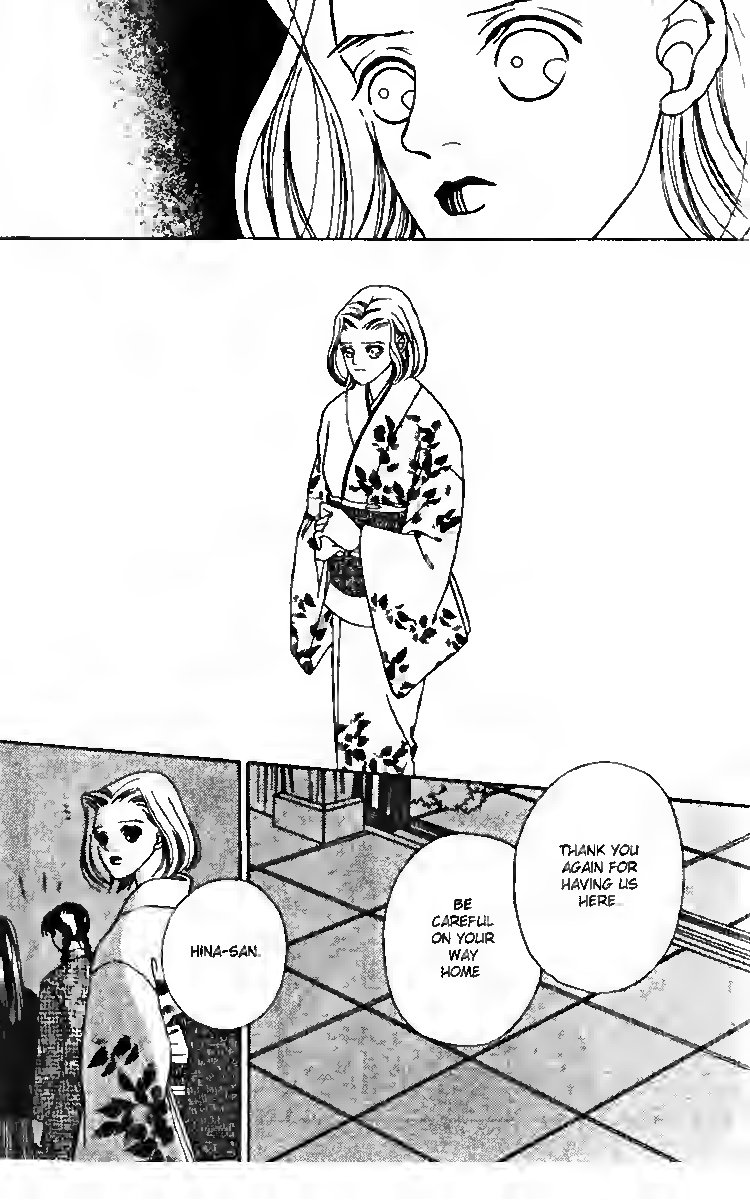
COULD YOU PLEASE IMPROVE THE TASTE OF THE NOODLES SOLD IN KYOTO?
ARARE-CHAN! HOW COULD YOU BRING THAT UP IN THIS SITUATION?!
My sister's got not one sensible bone in her body
YOU MEAN THE INSTANT NOODLES?
OH, DEAR GOD, PLEASE FORGIVE HER FOOLHARDINESS.
ha ha ha
WELL, YOUR COMPANY'S INSTANT NOODLES ARE AWESOME.
I WAS PRACTICALLY THE ONE WHO GAVE BIRTH TO IT
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING? YOU'VE COME TO RIGHT PERSON TO TALK ABOUT INSTANT NOODLES.
ARARE-SAN, MY MOTHER HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH IT.


R R R R
.....
MOTHER!!
MY MARRIAGE INTO THIS HOUSE GAVE BIRTH TO BOTH KAORU AND INSTANT NOODLES
R R R
.....

I'LL CLEAR THE TABLE
HINOYAMA
.....
WE HAVE GUESTS RIGHT NOW
?
TOKI
YOU CAN'T

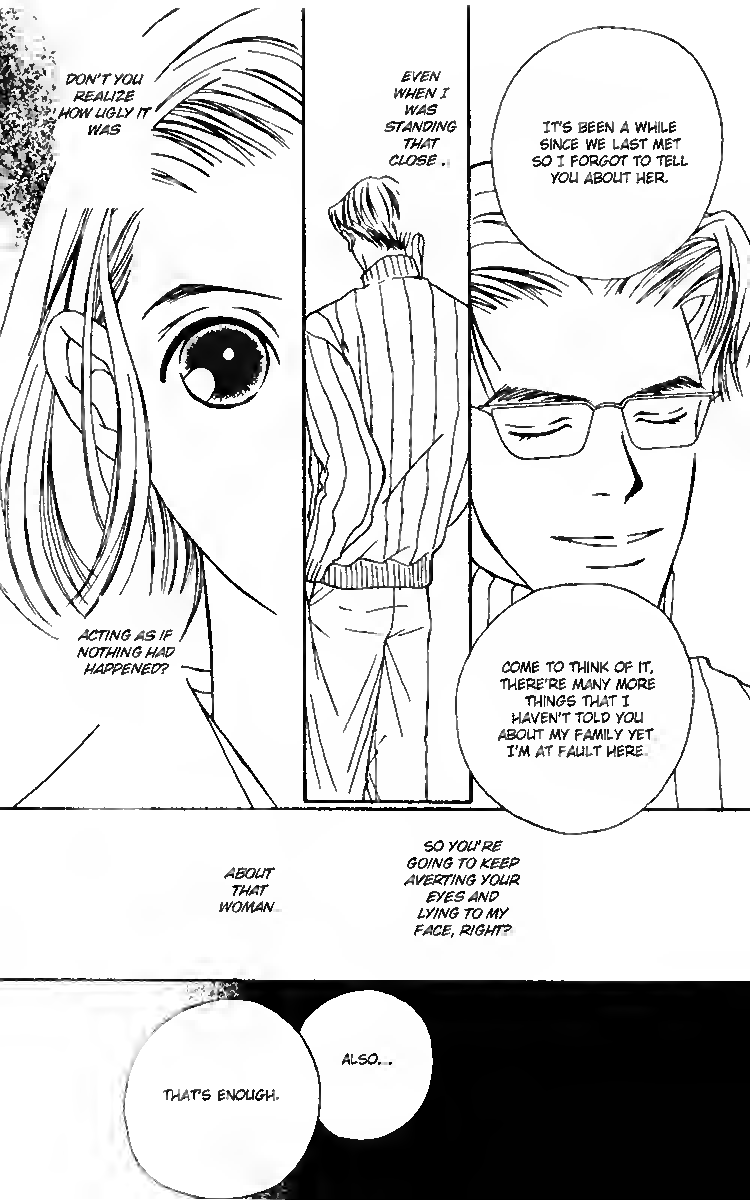

I DIDN'T SEE IT ANYWHERE
clack
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF FOOD SHE USUALLY EATS
POWDER CASE

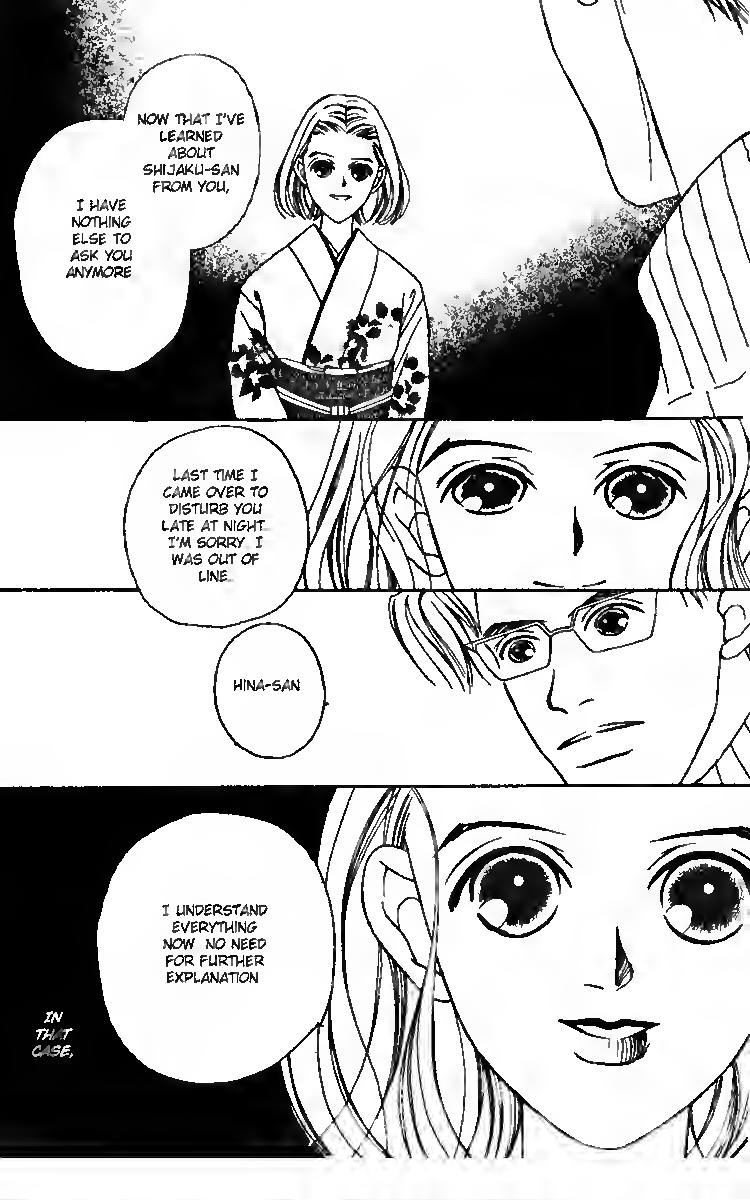

YOU CAN'T WE HAVE GUESTS RIGHT NOW
I DIDN'T SEE IT ANYWHERE

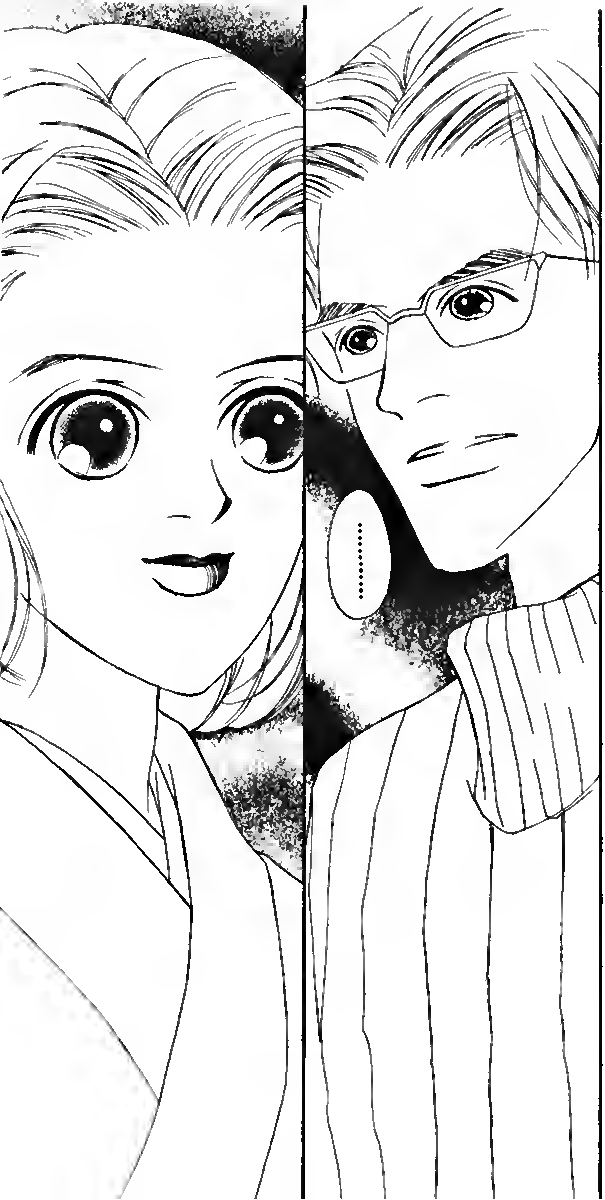

HINA-SAN.
BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME
THANK YOU AGAIN FOR HAVING US HERE...

I APOLOGIZE FOR TODAY.
.....
MAY I SPEAK WITH YOU FOR A MOMENT?
THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY. I'M REALLY SORRY.
IT'S FINE. WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

ABOUT SHIJAKU
LAST TIME
.....
SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF MY FATHER'S ACQUAINTANCE
THINGS WERE COMPLICATED WHEN SHE LOST HER PARENTS, WE TOOK HER IN.
SHE MAY BE USING THE HINOYAMA NAME,
BUT WE'RE NOT LIVING IN THE SAME HOUSE
TO ME, SHE'S LIKE A SISTER


DON'T YOU REALIZE HOW UGLY IT WAS
EVEN WHEN I WAS STANDING THAT CLOSE..
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE LAST MET SO I FORGOT TO TELL YOU ABOUT HER.
ACTING AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED?
COME TO THINK OF IT, THERE'RE MANY MORE THINGS THAT I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU ABOUT MY FAMILY YET I'M AT FAULT HERE.
ABOUT THAT WOMAN.
SO YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP AVERTING YOUR EYES AND LYING TO MY FACE, RIGHT?
ALSO...
THAT'S ENOUGH.


NOW THAT I'VE LEARNED ABOUT SHIJAKU-SAN FROM YOU,
I HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO ASK YOU ANYMORE
LAST TIME I CAME OVER TO DISTURB YOU LATE AT NIGHT... I'M SORRY I WAS OUT OF LINE...
HINA-SAN
I UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING NOW NO NEED FOR FURTHER EXPLANATION
IN THAT CASE,


KEEP AVOIDING MY EYES ALL YOU WANT

Gion Chige Mochi
Covered in sparkly ice-like flakes, filled with sweet and nutty miso. It has been a Kyoto favorite for about 100 years!
http://kyotofoodie.com

Fukuyadon Honpo

by YUCHI Yayomi

Scanned by : Chihaya
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Shogo in-da kon

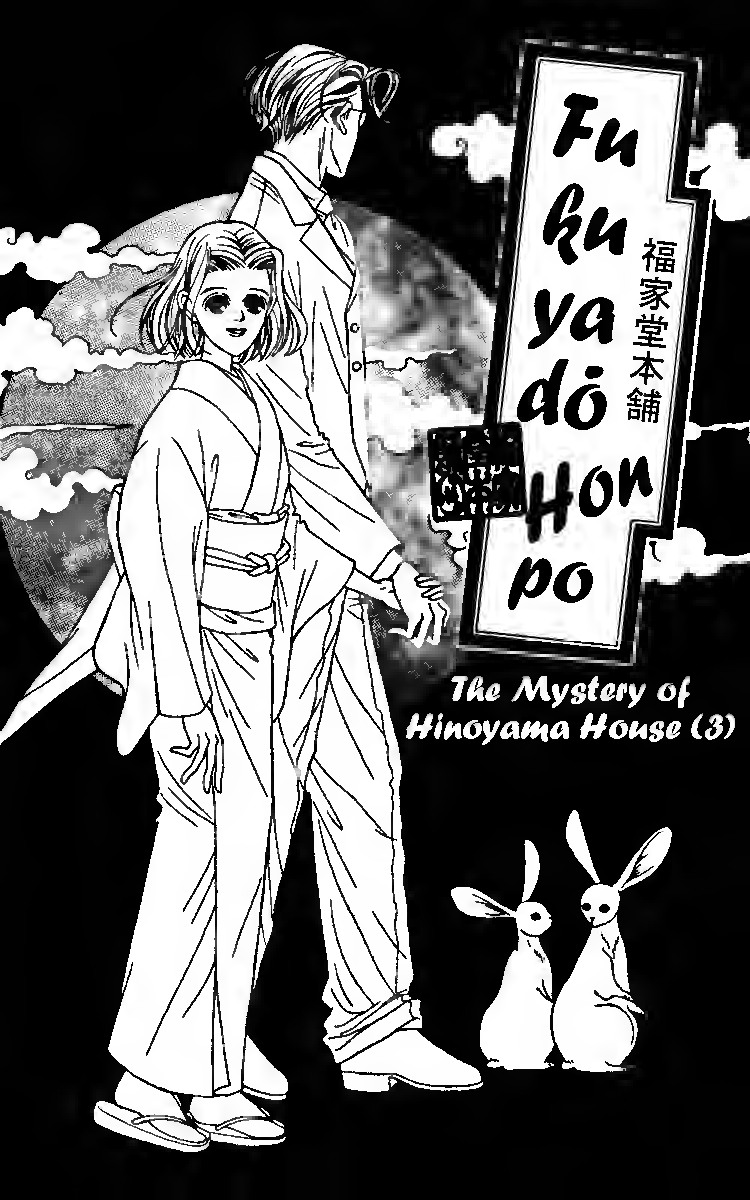
PG 63

All the dishes that Hina made were traditional Kyoto cuisine for autumn. She specially made it considering that Hinoyama's Mother just returned to Kyoto after a long time. She even used the ingredients that reflect the feel of the season. Very thoughtful.

Daigon Nimono = Simmered white radish. Hina used shogoin daikon (Kyoto White Radish)
Iwashi no tsumire = chopped sardine ball soup. Sardines are autumn dish for Japanese.
Mibuna = a traditional Kyoto vegetable somewhere between lettuce and spinach

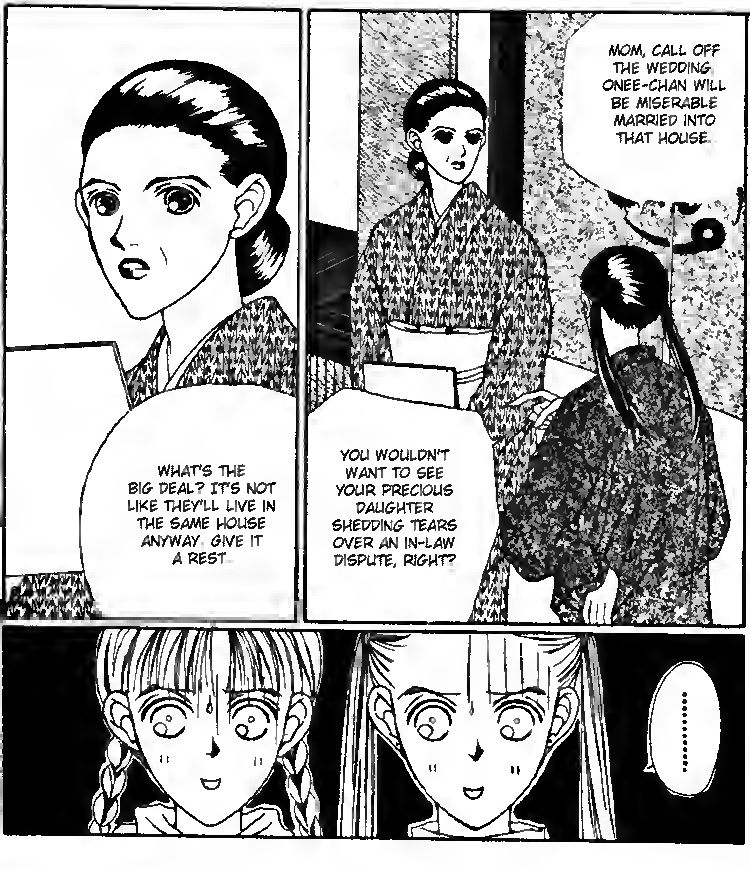
Mibuna Salad

http://www.team-hoppe.com


Fukuyadō Honpo
福家堂本舗
The Mystery of Hinoyama House (3)

NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN MAKE THIS ARARE FEEL LIKE A MORON, YOU KNOW.
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. WHAT A STUCK-UP BITCH!
"ARE YOU PRACTICING AUSTERITY OR SOMETHING?" "I JUST LOST MY APPETITE." "TAKE THEM AWAY."
SHE SAID THOSE, RIGHT? HANA!?
ARARE-CHAN SURE IS ON A ROLL.
AT LEAST YOU CAN COOK, RIGHT? GO MAKE SOMETHING.
LIKE THIS, RIGHT? HANA?
.....
Holding a cigarette
HAD HINA BEEN PROPERLY INTRODUCED?
SHE'S GOT SOME NERVE ORDERING US AROUND LIKE THAT. YOU'RE PISSED OFF TOO, RIGHT?

AT FIRST I THOUGHT SHE ONLY HAD A SHARP TONGUE, BUT AS IT TURNS OUT, HER TRUE PERSONALITY IS MORE VENOMOUS THAN I THOUGHT
EVEN OLD MAN HINOYAMA SCURRIED OFF WHEN HER NAME WAS MENTIONED
WAIT A MINUTE. I'M JUST A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT. NO WAY WOULD SHE THINK I'M THE ONE.
MAYBE SHE STILL DOESN'T KNOW WHICH ONE OF US IS HER SON'S FIANCE!
COME ON, MOM! AS IF SHE STOOD A CHANCE OF BEING INTRODUCED! SHE BARELY LISTENED TO WHAT HER OWN SON HAD TO SAY
WELL, HINA DOES HAVE A BABY FACE.
MOM, YOU'RE NOT HELPING.
HEH?! ME?!!
GIVE ME A BREAK. BETWEEN YOU AND ONEE-CHAN WEARING NORMAL CLOTHES, WHO DO YOU THINK LOOKS OLDER?

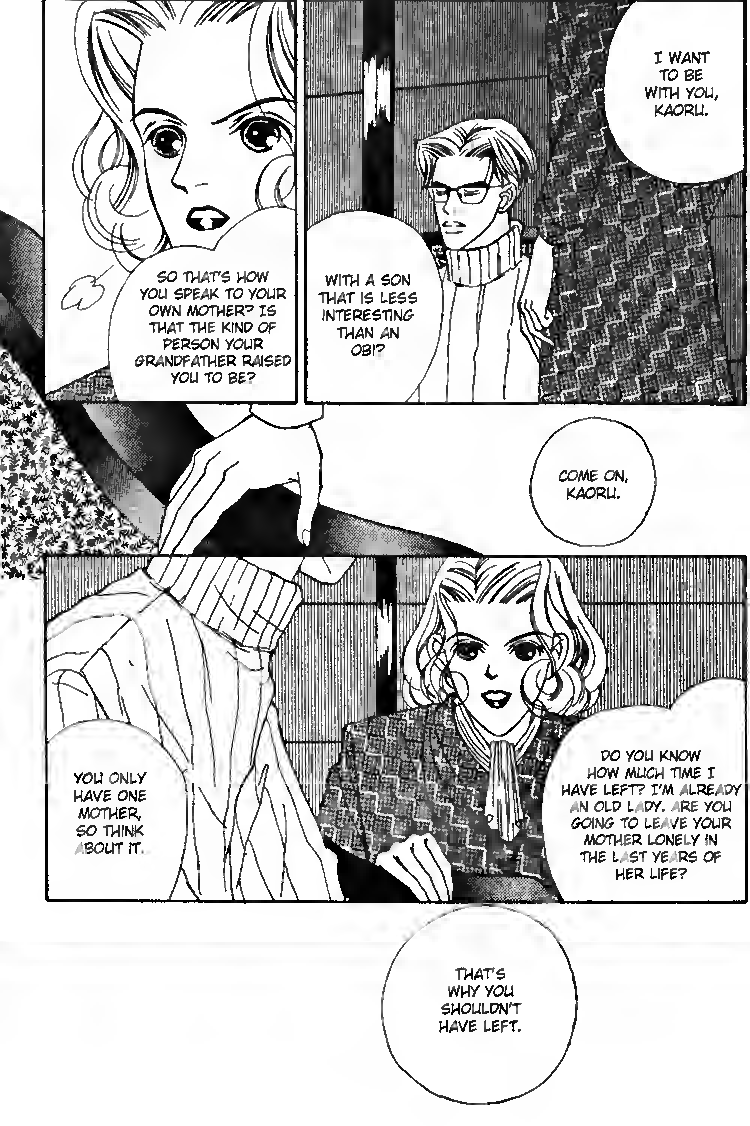

MOM, CALL OFF THE WEDDING. ONEE-CHAN WILL BE MISERABLE MARRIED INTO THAT HOUSE.
YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO SEE YOUR PRECIOUS DAUGHTER SHEDDING TEARS OVER AN IN-LAW DISPUTE, RIGHT?
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL? IT'S NOT LIKE THEY'LL LIVE IN THE SAME HOUSE ANYWAY. GIVE IT A REST.
.....

Gosh, Mom will always be at the top of the food chain.

OF COURSE THE PERSON WHO NEVER FOUGHT WITH HER IN-LAWS WOULD SAY THAT

Hi
no
ya
ma
I TOLD YOU NOT TO BE LATE.
THAT'S NOT VERY NICE, MOTHER.
OH COME NOW.
DO YOU HATE ME THAT MUCH?
AND ARE YOU TRYING TO MAKE FUN OF ME? BRINGING SUCH BORING WOMEN TO MEET ME?
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHICH ONE I WANTED YOU TO MEET?

THE ONE WITH THE BABY FACE, RIGHT?
SURELY IT CAN'T BE THE GIRL WHO BABBLED ABOUT NOODLES.
YOU MUST HATE ME... THERE'S NO WAY YOU'D EVER MARRY SOMEONE WHO EVEN VAGUELY REMINDED YOU OF ME
BUT I DOUBT YOU'LL HAVE A GREAT TIME
SPENDING YOUR LIFE WITH THAT TIMID-LOOKING GIRL.
SHE LOOKS SO OBEDIENT, AS IF SHE HAS NO EMOTIONS
WHATEVER, JUST FORGET THE WEDDING. COME LIVE WITH ME IN KOBE I'M LONELY
WHO WOULD GO BACK TO THAT KIND OF HOUSE!?
NO WAY. AFTER FATHER RETIRED, THAT PLACE BECAME MY BROTHERS' REALM.
IF YOU'RE LONELY, WHY DON'T YOU RETURN TO ASHIYA?


I WANT TO BE WITH YOU, KAORU.
WITH A SON THAT IS LESS INTERESTING THAN AN OBI?
SO THAT'S HOW YOU SPEAK TO YOUR OWN MOTHER? IS THAT THE KIND OF PERSON YOUR GRANDFATHER RAISED YOU TO BE?
COME ON, KAORU.
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH TIME I HAVE LEFT? I'M ALREADY AN OLD LADY. ARE YOU GOING TO LEAVE YOUR MOTHER LONELY IN THE LAST YEARS OF HER LIFE?
YOU ONLY HAVE ONE MOTHER, SO THINK ABOUT IT.
THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT.

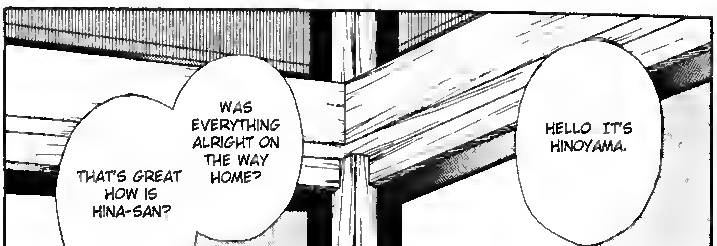
IF ONLY YOU NEVER LEFT THIS PLACE TO START WITH.
YOU TURNED YOUR BACK ON YOUR FAMILY WHEN WE WERE IN PAIN.
IF ONLY YOU HADN'T ABANDONED US.

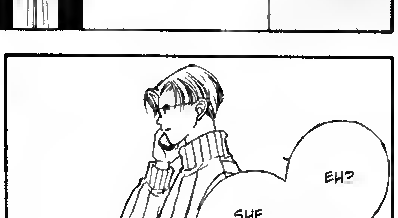
PATTER
PITTER
PATTER

YOU THINK EVERYTHING WILL GO WELL?
MARRIAGE ISN'T THE ANSWER FOR HAPPINESS.
DIDN'T YOU SEE HOW YOUR FATHER AND I TURNED OUT?
A MOTHER WHO NEGLECTS HER FAMILY, AND A FATHER WHO HAD DRUNKEN AFFAIRS.
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU KNOW HOW TO HAVE A HAPPY MARRIAGE?

SHE MAY LOOK OBEDIENT FROM THE OUTSIDE. IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT? A WIFE WHO'S THE TOTAL OPPOSITE IMAGE OF ME?
AND THAT GIRL WON'T DO, MARK MY WORD
BUT SHE'S MORE THAN MEET THE EYE.
IT'S NOT GOING TO GO WELL BETWEEN YOU TWO.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?
ARROGANT. PROUD.
NOT MOTHER-MATERIAL. SELFISH.

MAYBE SHE DOES RESEMBLE ME SOMEHOW
(cr)p
ZAA

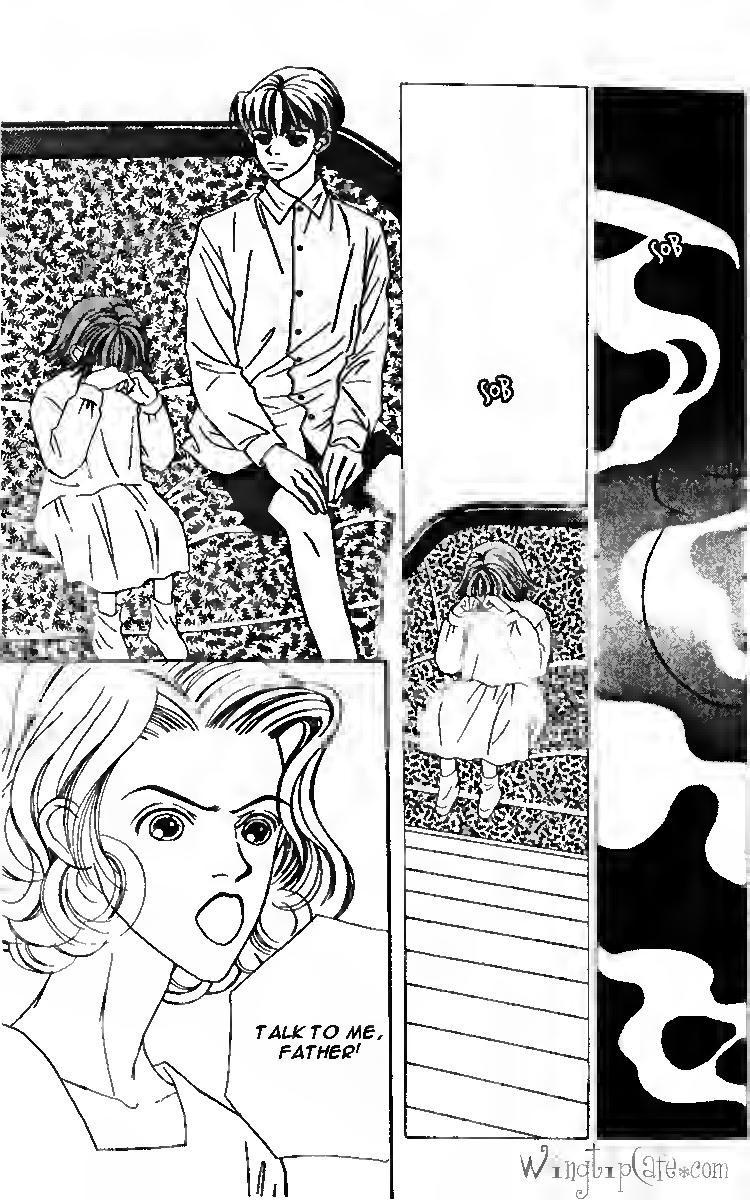

HELLO IT'S HINOYAMA.
WAS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT ON THE WAY HOME?
THAT'S GREAT HOW IS HINA-SAN?


EH?
SHE HAS A FEVER?

I SEE. IS THERE ANYTHING SHE PARTICULARLY WANTS?
WELL.. THEN MAYBE..
A PEACH..?

HANG UP, HANA. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK CIVILLY WITH HIM.
DON'T WORRY IT ISN'T A BIG DEAL
YES, BUT IT'S NOT BECAUSE SHE CAUGHT A COLD OR ANYTHING.

I SEE...
SO WE BOUGHT CANNED PEACHES... BUT ONEE-CHAN DIDN'T WANT TO EAT CANNED FRUIT...
ARARE-CHAN AND I SEARCHED SEVERAL STORES BUT WE COULDN'T FIND ANY IT'S JUST NOT IN SEASON...
YES. ONEE-CHAN SAID SHE HAS A CRAVING FOR IT...
BEEP
NOTHING THAT MATTERS THANK YOU VERY MUCH. GOOD NIGHT.
GOOD NIGHT...
CAN I ASK HER TO CALL YOU BACK?
OH, DID YOU HAVE SOME-THING URGENT TO SAY TO HER?
ARE YOU LISTEN-ING, FATHER?
FATHER?

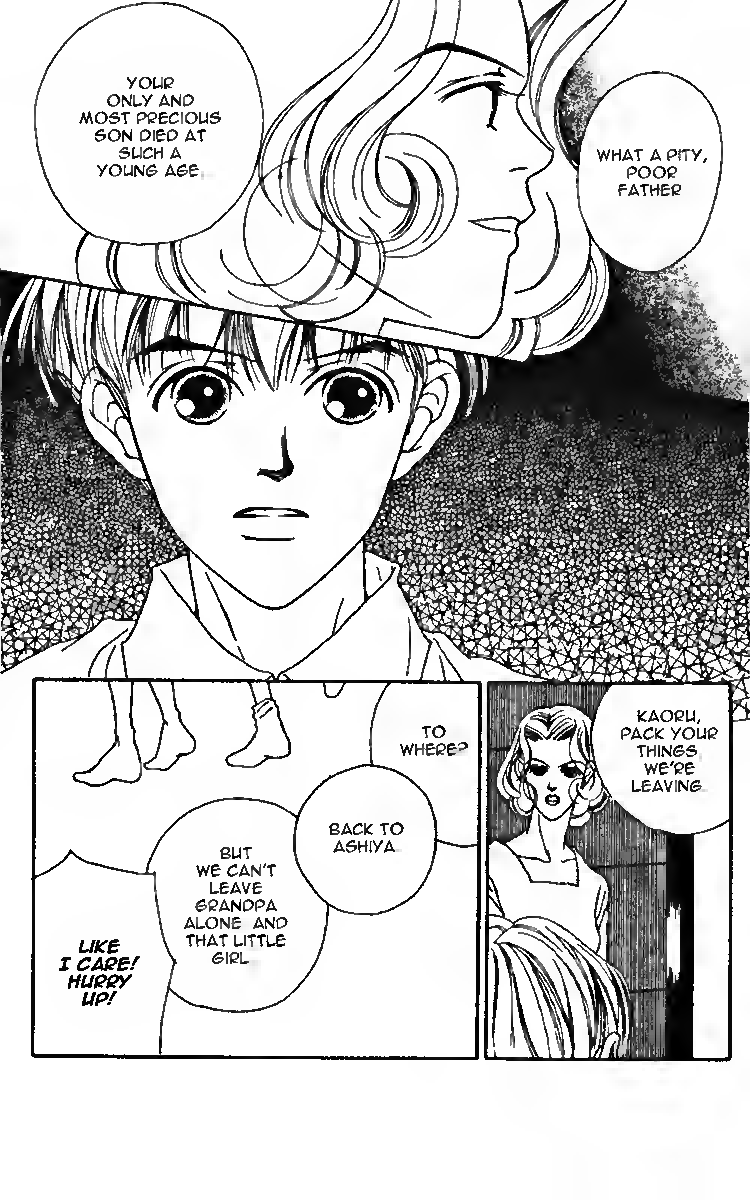


WingtipCafe.com

WHY DO WE HAVE TO ATTEND THAT WOMAN'S FUNERAL?
WHY DID THIS HAPPEN TO ME?
WHAT A BIG MISTAKE MARRYING INTO THIS HOUSE!
IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!
IF ONLY THAT TIME...
YES, BECAUSE OF THAT REQUEST...
WOULD YOU THINK ABOUT ME FOR A MINUTE?
PEOPLE WILL RIDICULE ME!

AS THE SUCCESSOR, HE HAD TO FIND FUNDS TO INVEST IN THE COMPANY.
COMPARED TO THE GRAND BUSINESS OF SUZUNARIYA BACK THEN, MY FATHER'S PRODUCE COMPANY HADN'T GOTTEN ITS FOOT IN THE DOOR YET. OUR BUSINESS WAS SHAKY AT BEST.
BUT TO BUILD A NEW FACTORY, WE NEEDED MONEY.
AND BECAUSE HE WANTED TO TURN IT AROUND, HE DUSTED OFF THE INSTANT NOODLE PROJECT AND TRIED TO MAKE IT WORK.
AND YOU MARRIED ME TO YOUR SON FOR FINANCIAL BACKING.
SO HE SOUGHT OUT AN OLD FRIEND IN HIS DESPERATION.

SO YOU TRIED TO MAKE AMENDS BY GIVING YOUR SON A PROPER MARRIAGE
YOU WERE REPROACHED BY THE PUBLIC FOR MARRYING THAT WOMAN,
AND YOU FELT GUILTY ABOUT THE MISTAKE, DIDN'T YOU?
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME NEXT?
SAY SOMETHING, FATHER!
AND WHAT DID I GET? A DEAD HUSBAND IN ANOTHER WOMAN'S ARMS.
I WAS FORCED TO MARRY INTO THIS HOUSE.
I GUESS THIS IS DIVINE PUNISHMENT FOR YOU FOR DICTATING OUR LIVES
FOR YOUR OWN PERSONAL GAIN


YOUR ONLY AND MOST PRECIOUS SON DIED AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE
WHAT A PITY, POOR FATHER
KAORU, PACK YOUR THINGS WE'RE LEAVING
TO WHERE?
BACK TO ASHIYA
BUT WE CAN'T LEAVE GRANDPA ALONE AND THAT LITTLE GIRL
LIKE I CARE! HURRY UP!

KAORU...
I'M NOT GOING.

KAORU!
WHAT'RE YOU SAYING? WE'RE LEAVING RIGHT NOW.
I'M NOT GOING!
FINE! I'LL COME GET YOU LATER.
KAORU!

ZAA
IT FEELS LIKE A LONG TIME AGO.
SPLASH
THAT DAY...
IT WAS ONLY LIGHTLY RAINING WHEN I LEFT THE SHOP.

SATOKO..
I MET HINA-SAN THE OTHER DAY.
.....
I WAS TELLING THE TRUTH MY MOTHER IS THERE RIGHT NOW. YOU'D BETTER NOT GO
SO HAVING GUESTS WAS JUST A LIE, RIGHT?
YOU'RE GOING OUT?

THAT'S RIGHT, SHIJAKU-SAN
DON'T WORRY. I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO.
I SAW HER YOUNGER SISTER FIRST I THOUGHT SHE'D BE TALLER.
.....
WHAT A PETITE WOMAN! I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S OLDER THAN ME.
SHE LOOKS LIKE ME, DOESN'T SHE?
IF WE LOOKED COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, I'D HAVE BACKED OFF. BUT TO PICK SOMEONE SO MUCH LIKE ME...
WHY COULDN'T IT BE ME? WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE THAT WOMAN?
LIES!

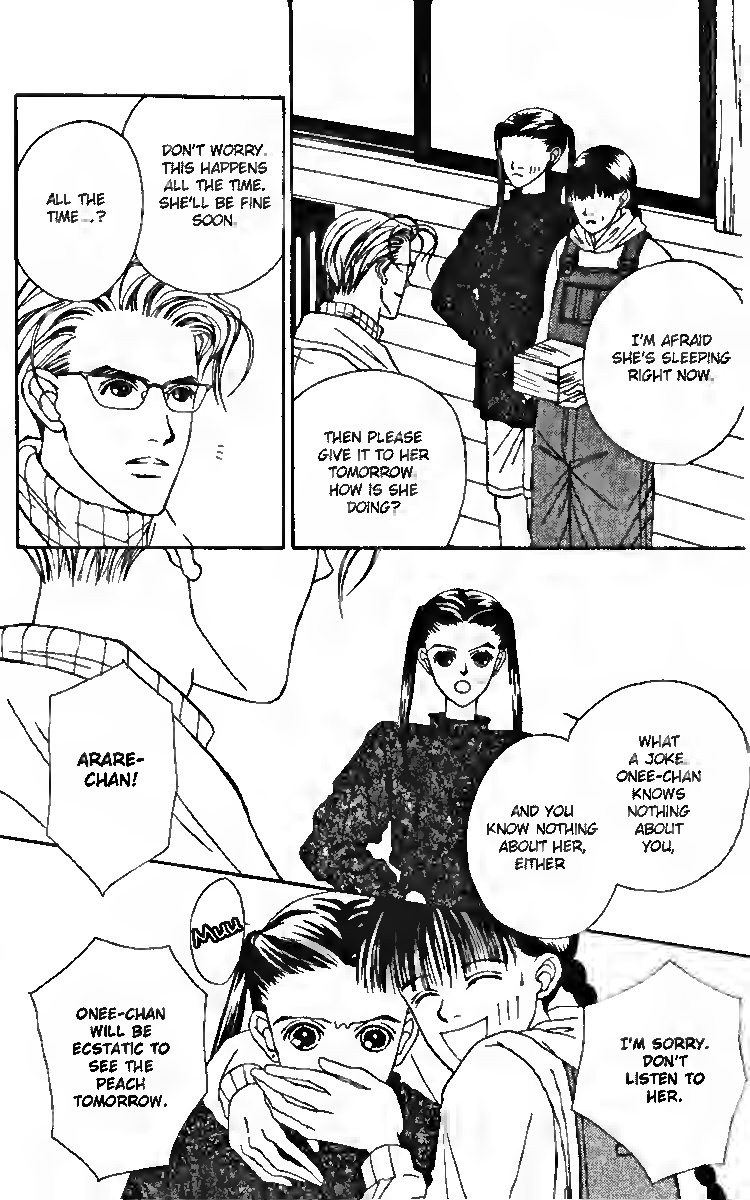
YOU SAID...
YOU LOVED ME.
LIAR!
SATOKO,
THAT WAS YEARS AGO.
I KNOW...
ONII-SAN,
YOU'VE ALWAYS YEARNED FOR A PERFECT FAMILY.

BECAUSE OF YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER,
YOU WANT TO CREATE A PERFECT FAMILY THAT NO ONE WILL RIDICULE AM I RIGHT?
OR PERHAPS
YOU JUST CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO MARRY THE DAUGHTER OF YOUR FATHER'S LOVER
IT'S VERY LATE YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUTSIDE

WHY SHOULD YOU CARE WHAT PEOPLE THINK?
IF YOUR LOVE IS TRUE, WHY SHOULD ANYTHING ELSE MATTER?
WHAT "PERFECT FAMILY"?
PATTER
THAT KIND OF FAMILY...

DOES IT EVEN EXIST?
OH MY GOD, HINOYAMA-SAN!
It's him again.
YOU'RE ALL WET. WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME INSIDE?
IT'S OKAY. WOULD YOU GIVE THIS TO HINA-SAN FOR ME?

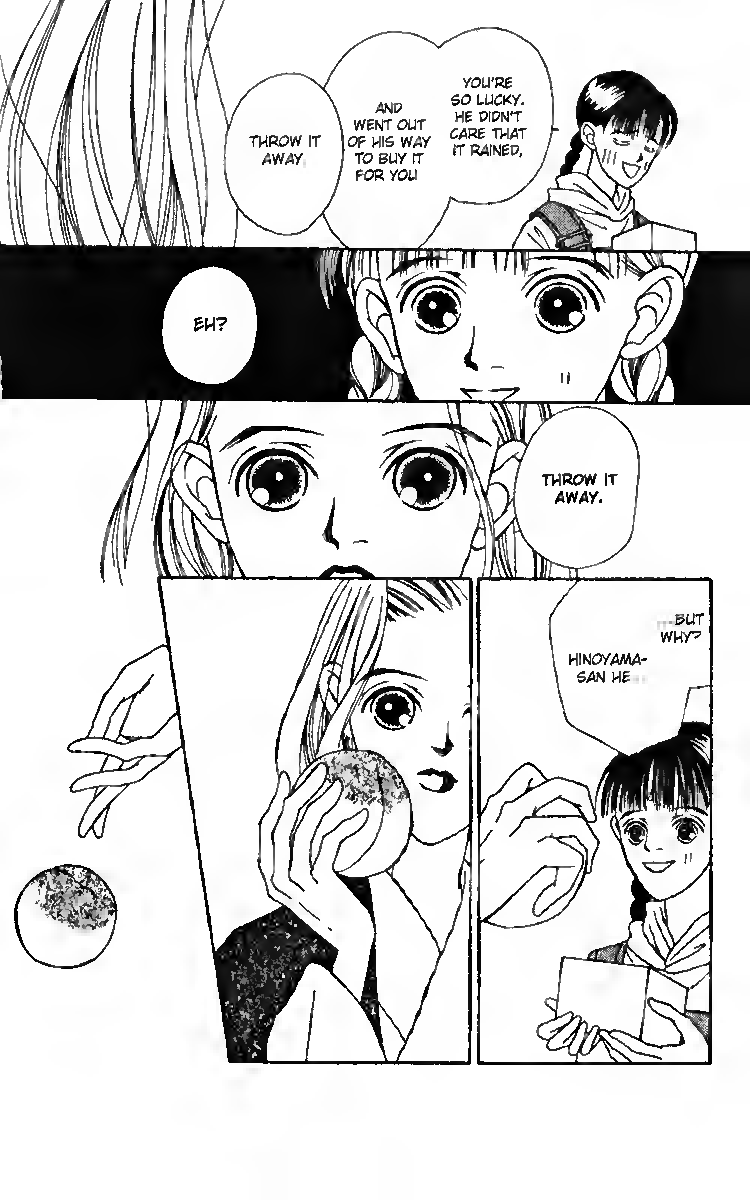
INCREDIBLE. IT'S A PEACH. WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?
A high-quality one too. Smells so good!
THE SHOP OF AN ACQUAINTANCE
UH... BUT...
THIS IS GREAT ONEE-CHAN WANTED TO EAT ONE SO BADLY

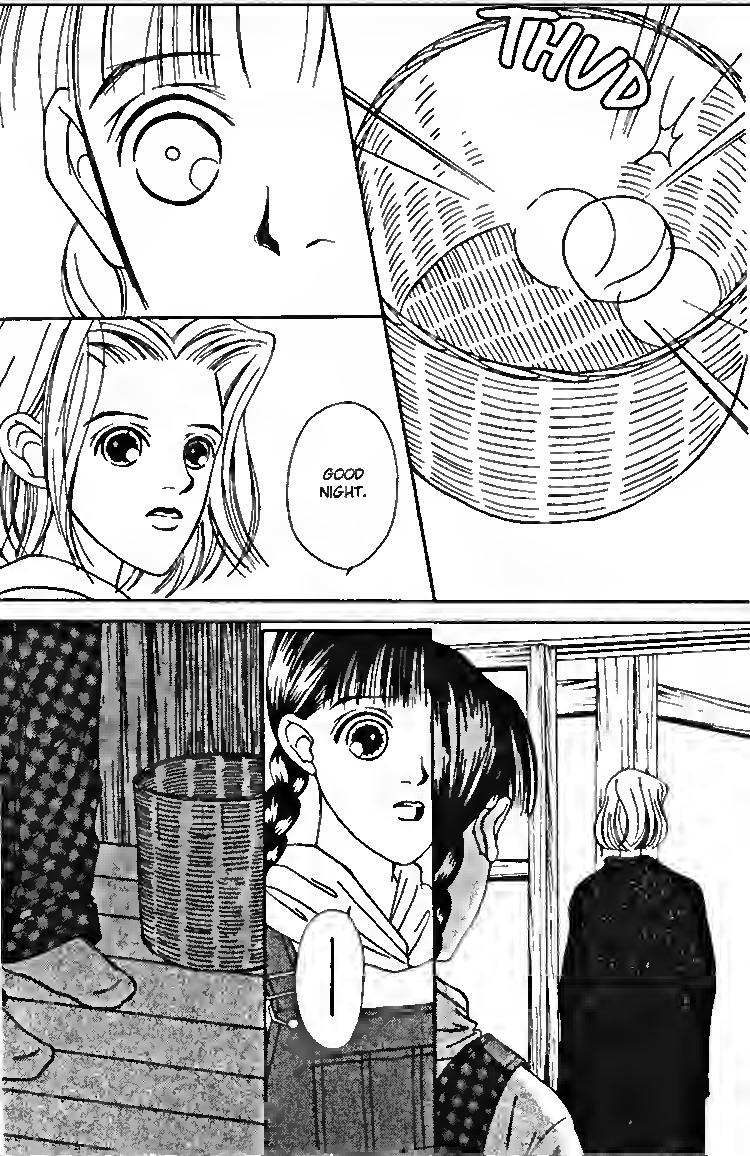

I'M AFRAID SHE'S SLEEPING RIGHT NOW.
THEN PLEASE GIVE IT TO HER TOMORROW. HOW IS SHE DOING?
DON'T WORRY. THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME. SHE'LL BE FINE SOON.
ALL THE TIME...?
WHAT A JOKE. ONEE-CHAN KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT YOU,
AND YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HER, EITHER
ARARE-CHAN!
I'M SORRY. DON'T LISTEN TO HER.
MUU
ONEE-CHAN WILL BE ECSTATIC TO SEE THE PEACH TOMORROW.

I CAN FIND ANYTHING.
.....
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FOUND ONE.
BUT HOW AMAZING! WE SEARCHED EVERYWHERE.
WHATEVER HINA-SAN WANTS, I'LL MAKE SURE SHE HAS IT.

GOOSE BUMPS
ICK! THAT'S GROSS! I'VE GOT CHILLS ALL OVER.
Oh my~
GOOD NIGHT
I NEED A HOT BATH TO SOAK SCRUB IT OFF.
How could he say somethina so icky!
HINOYAMA-SAN WALKED IN THE RAIN TO BRING IT TO ONEE-CHAN
EVEN THOUGH WE COULDN'T FIND A PEACH ANYWHERE,

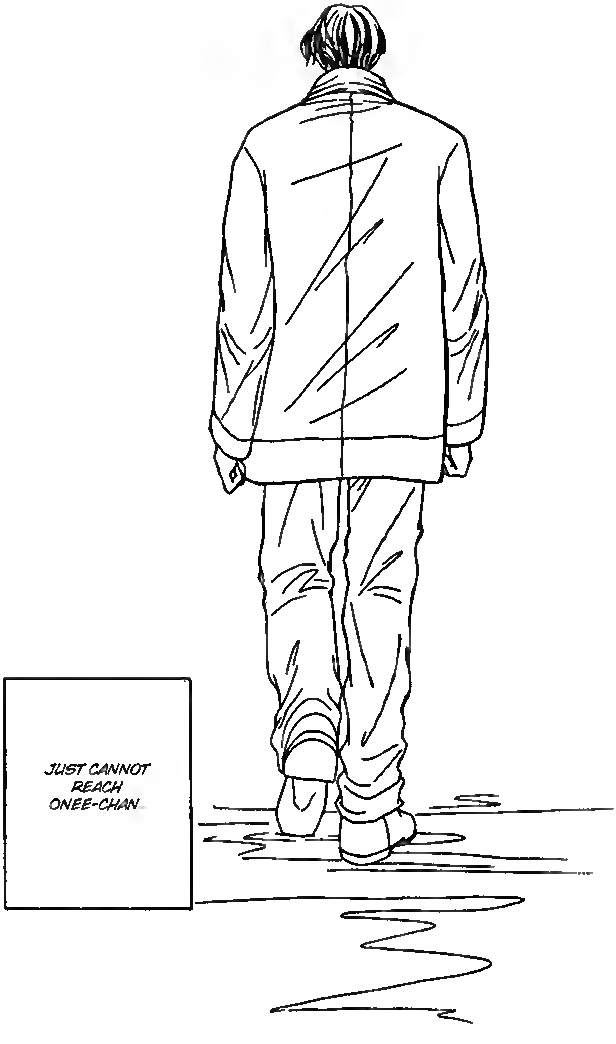
ONEE-CHAN.
YOU WOKE UP...?
YEAH. I'M THIRSTY.
PERFECT TIMING.
HINOYAMA-SAN DROPPED BY TO GIVE YOU THIS.
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO EAT IT, RIGHT?


YOU'RE SO LUCKY. HE DIDN'T CARE THAT IT RAINED,
AND WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO BUY IT FOR YOU
THROW IT AWAY
EH?
THROW IT AWAY.
...BUT WHY?
HINOYAMA-SAN HE...


THUD
GOOD NIGHT.
I

I CAN FIND ANYTHING
WHATEVER HINA-SAN WANTS, I'LL MAKE SURE SHE HAS IT.

HINOYAMA-SAN'S LOVE
THAT WAS POURED INTO THIS PEACH


JUST CANNOT
REACH
ONEE-CHAN

Seloubo
Peach-shaped Wagashi
http://dic.pixiv.net/a/桃型和菓子
Purinyadon Honpo
by ShuCHI Yayoi
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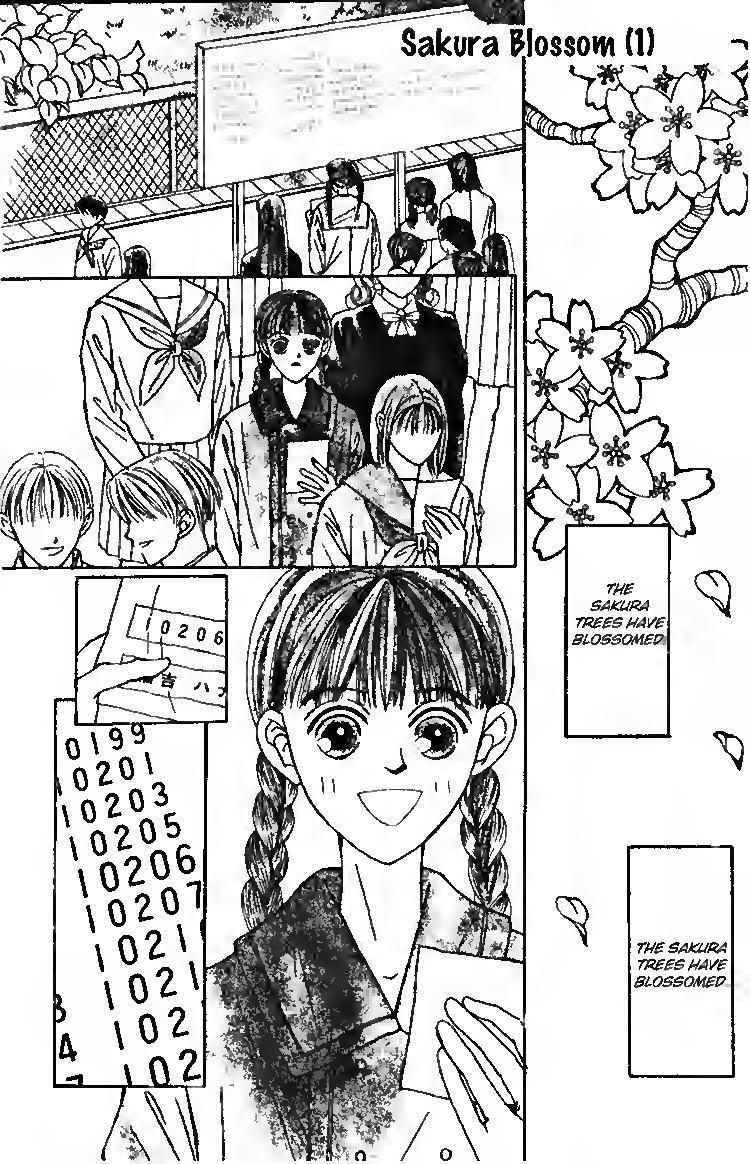
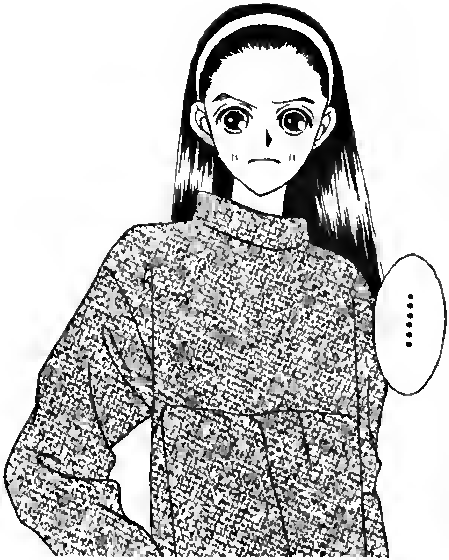
Sakura Blossom (1)



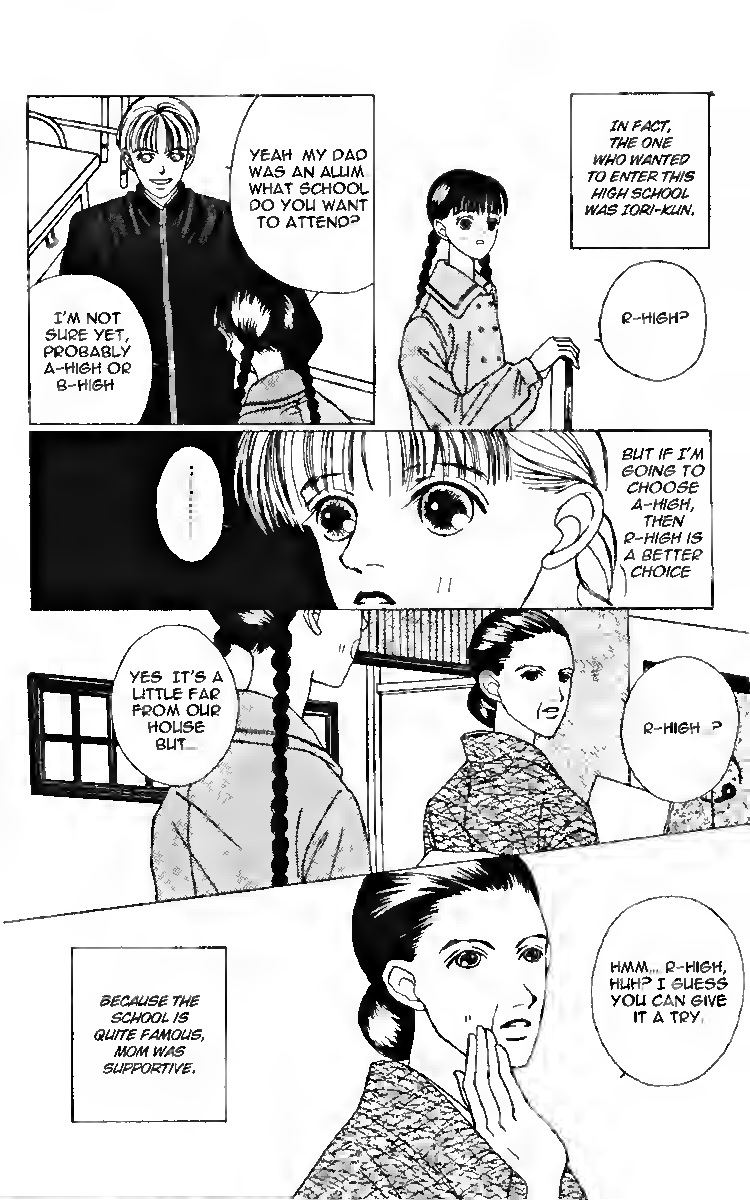
FukuyaDouHonpo
福家堂本舗
Sakura Blossom (1)



WOW, YOU LOOK GOOD. THAT NEW UNIFORM SUITS YOU.
REALLY? I WAS WORRIED THAT I'D LOOK STRANGE
BE A LITTLE MORE POSITIVE, SILLY

I'M OFF.
YEAH.
BE CAREFUL. COME STRAIGHT HOME AFTER SCHOOL, OKAY?
YEAH.
YOU'RE SURE YOU AREN'T FORGETTING ANYTHING?
SHE'S ALREADY A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
OH.
LOOK AT HER, ONEE-CHAN. SHE MUST BE FEELING SENTIMENTAL.
WATCHING HER YOUNGEST DAUGHTER ALL GROWN UP IN HER HIGH SCHOOL UNIFORM.
YET THAT CHILD

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU! WAS THAT ALL YOU WERE THINKING?
...STILL WEAR BRAIDS
BUT I ACTUALLY FEEL KINDA LONELY
I LEFT THE HOUSE CHEERFULLY
What?
You bet.
Eh?
Really?


YEAH MY DAD WAS AN ALUM WHAT SCHOOL DO YOU WANT TO ATTEND?
I'M NOT SURE YET, PROBABLY A-HIGH OR B-HIGH
IN FACT, THE ONE WHO WANTED TO ENTER THIS HIGH SCHOOL WAS IORI-KUN.
R-HIGH?
BUT IF I'M GOING TO CHOOSE A-HIGH, THEN R-HIGH IS A BETTER CHOICE
:.....
YES IT'S A LITTLE FAR FROM OUR HOUSE BUT...
R-HIGH ...?
HMM... R-HIGH, HUH? I GUESS YOU CAN GIVE IT A TRY.
BECAUSE THE SCHOOL IS QUITE FAMOUS, MOM WAS SUPPORTIVE.

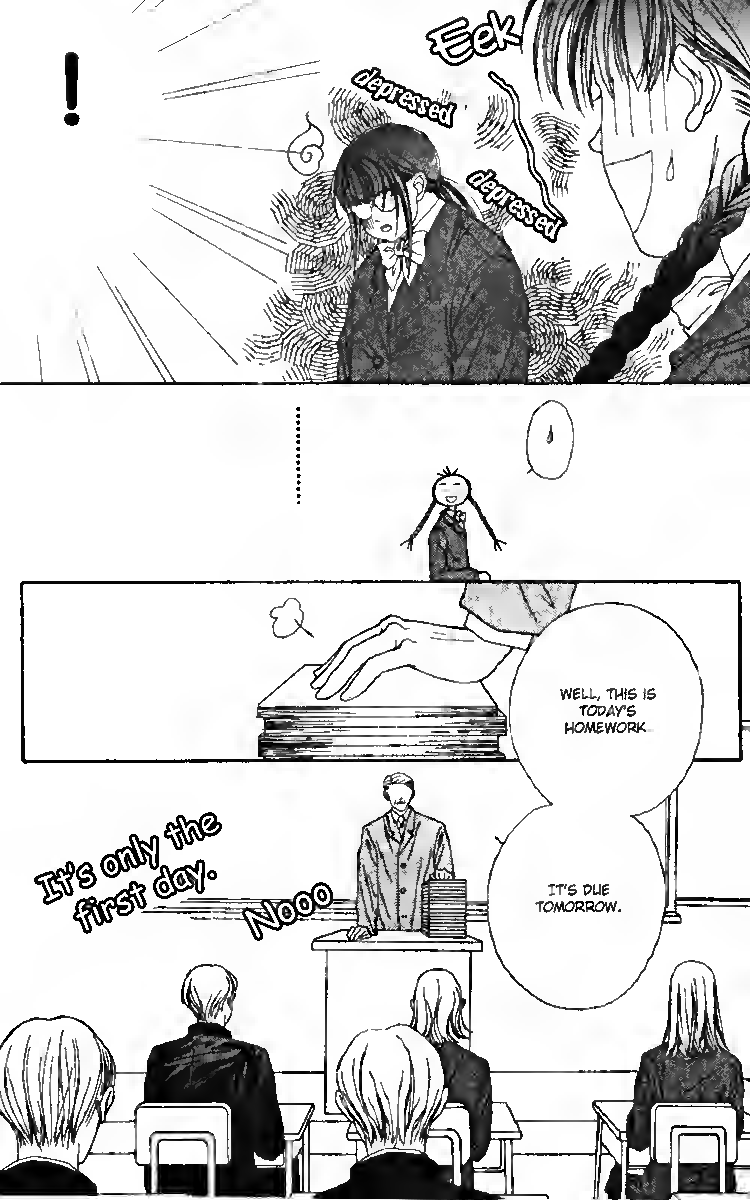
BUT IN THE END, IORI-KUN MOVED AWAY
WHAT? NOBODY IS GOING TO R-HIGH BUT ME?
WE WILL BOTH GO TO C-HIGH
R-HIGH FOR ME
I'M GOING TO A-HIGH
I JUST REALIZED THAT I ONLY HAD EYES FOR IORI-KUN.
.....
This isn't happening.
I GUESS I'D BETTER GIVE IT A TRY, OR SHE'LL GIVE ME AN EARFUL
"YOU WON'T KNOW UNLESS YOU TRY IT."
"THEIR STANDARD IS HIGH. I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN KEEP UP."
"DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT FACT BEFORE YOU MADE THE CHOICE??"
"BUT IT TAKES A LONG TIME TO COMMUTE."
"OH, YOU'LL MAKE NEW FRIENDS."
"NONE OF MY FRIENDS ARE GOING THERE, MOM."
.....
HOW AM I GOING TO BREAK THE NEWS TO MOM THAT I'VE CHANGED MY MIND?

A-HIGH AND R-HIGH ARE MORE OR LESS ON PAR WITH EACH OTHER, BUT R-HIGH IS MORE WELL-KNOWN, SO MOM WAS VERY PLEASED. THE TEACHER ALSO ENCOURAGED ME TO GO THERE...
MY CLOSE FRIENDS FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL ENTERED OTHER SCHOOLS.
I'M THE ONLY ONE HERE.
WELL, THERE'RE SOME STUDENTS FROM MY SCHOOL BUT...
I DON'T KNOW ANY OF THEM.
WILL I BE ALRIGHT?
IF ONLY IORI-KUN WAS HERE WITH ME NOW...

IORI-KUN...
AH
GHOTTA
HOW COULD IORI-KUN BE HERE?
SILLY HANA.

……
1-2
CHATTER
CHATTER
……
TIMID

ERM...
I SHOULD MAKE THE FIRST MOVE
UH...
SCARY!
WHAT?!
HI...
N-NOTHING
I DON'T HAVE THE GUTS TO BE HER FRIEND.


!
Eek
depressed
depressed
.....
WELL, THIS IS TODAY'S HOMEWORK.
IT'S DUE TOMORROW.
It's only the first day.
Nooo

COMPARED TO MIDDLE SCHOOL,
No time to even catch our breath.
We just passed the entrance exam.
I GUESS MY HEIGHT WON'T STAND OUT ANYMORE.
THERE ARE MANY MORE GUYS WHO ARE TALLER THAN ME.
CLACK
HOWEVER
I'M STILL ABOVE AVERAGE.

AH,
THOSE GIRLS ARE FROM MY CLASS.
CAN I WALK WITH YOU?
UH...
OH.
EH?!
WELL...

IGNORED
I'D BETTER GO HOME.
.....
WAIT.
IT'S ALL RIGHT. IS THERE A LETTER FROM IORI-KUN?
HOW IS YOUR NEW SCHOOL?
WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT?
FUKUOKA
I'M HOME.
DIDN'T YOU MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS?!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE CHATTING NON-STOP ABOUT HOW EXCITING YOUR NEW SCHOOL WAS
IT'S YOUR FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL AND YOU CAME BACK ASKING FOR IORI-KUN'S LETTER?

.....
I CAN'T TELL HER THAT I DIDN'T TALK TO ANYONE AT SCHOOL TODAY
OF COURSE, BECAUSE YOU'D SPEND THREE HOURS GOING THROUGH COUNTLESS DRAFTS JUST TO WRITE HIM THE PERFECT LETTER.
YEAH BUT TODAY I'VE GOT LOTS OF HOMEWORK TO DO
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!
IF YOU'RE SO IMPATIENT, WRITE HIM ANOTHER.
PLEASE, MADAM
NO. I TOLD YOU WE BOUGHT IT JUST TEN YEARS AGO WE DON'T NEED A NEW ONE
AT LEAST TAKE OUR BROCHURE AND LOOK IT OVER I CAN'T GO BACK LIKE THIS
WE HAVE A GUEST?

WELL, IT'S A SALESMAN FROM A KITCHEN APPLIANCE COMPANY
LOOKS MORE LIKE A SALES TRAINEE TO ME
ALL HE HAS IS HIS PERSISTENCE I DOUBT HE CAN MAKE A SALE
YEAH.
I'LL LEAVE THESE. PLEASE CONSIDER US TO BE OF SERVICE TO YOU.
Erm th-this is our best-selling product right now
HE STAMMERS A LOT. PROBABLY VERY NEW AT THIS JOB.
Just a look right?
I see you Madam.
I won't change my mind.
SIGH..
SO DISAPPOINTING
NO LETTER AGAIN.
BUT ANYWAY
gloom

Whistle
Whistle
Whistle
.....
WE'LL BEGIN WITH A WARM-UP
Whistle
Whistle
Whistle
Whistle
Whistle
.....

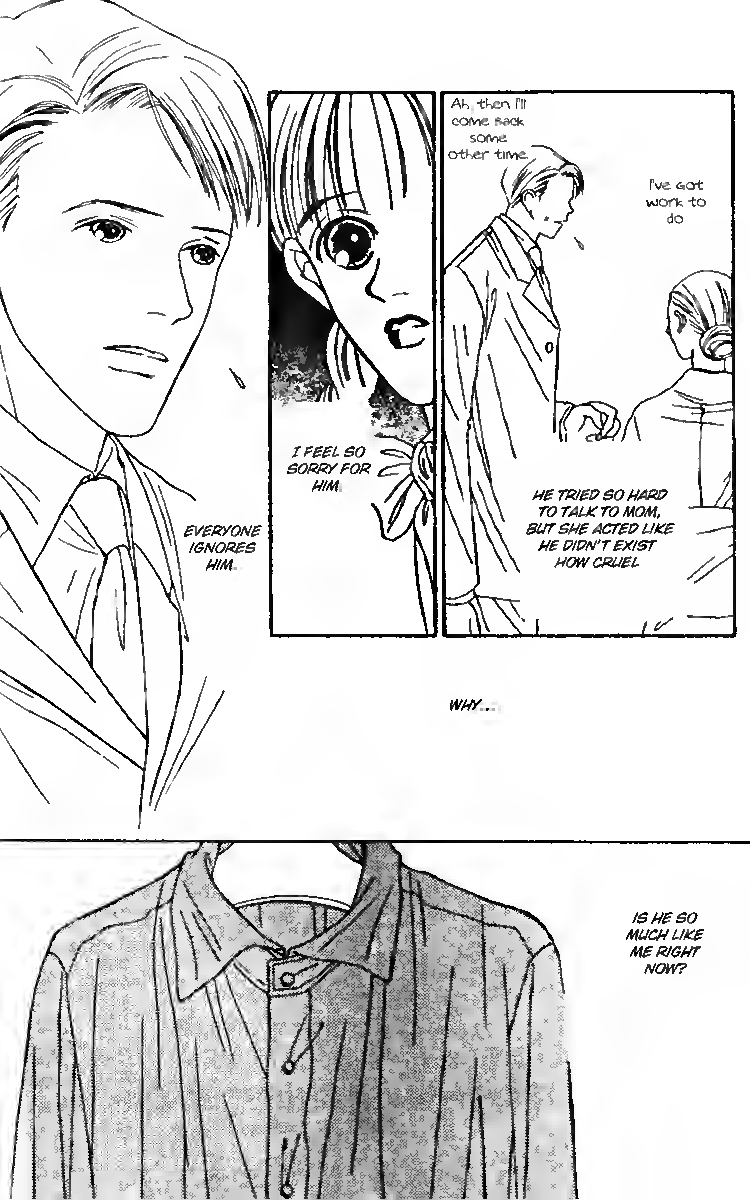
.....
smile
.....
ignore
AND THIS IS DUE TOMORROW
.....

I can't believe it
SLIDE
He must be kidding
Not again!
SHOW ME HOW GOOD YOU REALLY ARE THAT'S ALL FOR TODAY
Let's get it over with. Yeah, let's do it together
@LATER

WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS?
IT'S THE GUY FROM THAT TIME.
Chikako, what're you doing? Let's go
AH, OKAY.
.....
Y-YEAH.
TOO MUCH HOMEWORK, DON'T YOU THINK?

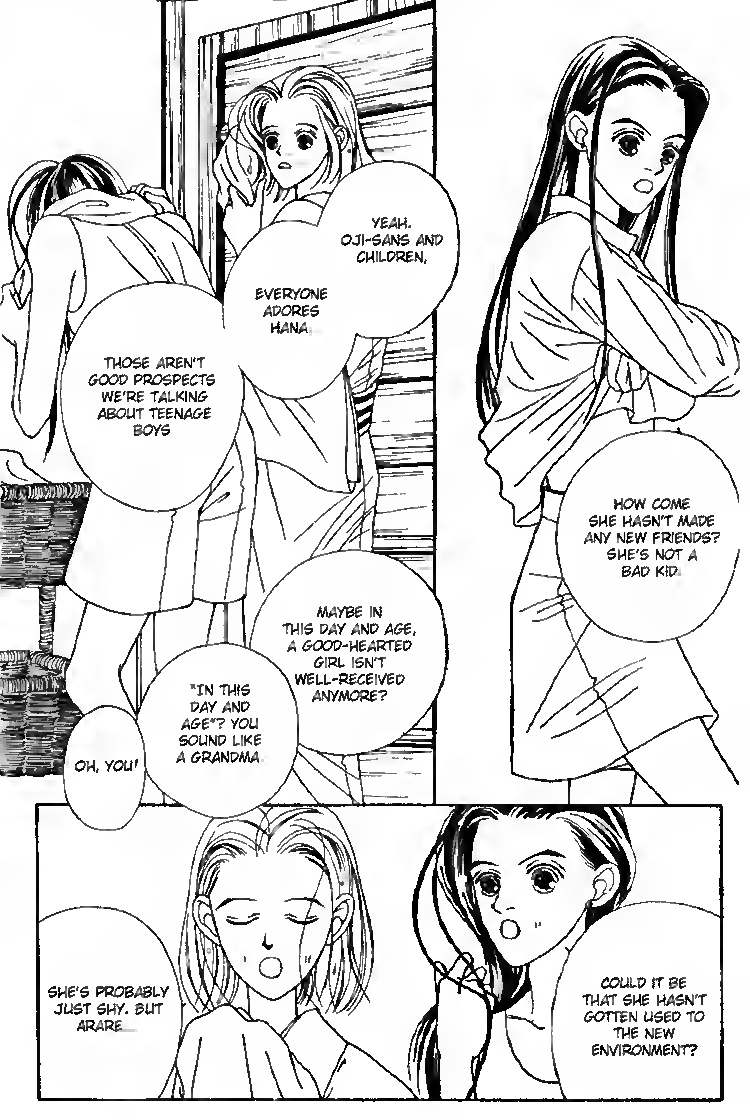
The math homework is impossible!
Let me copy your answers
.....
CHIKAKO, THAT GIRL YOU TALKED TO...
ISN'T SHE ABOUT THE SAME BUILD AS YOU?
WE CAN'T BE MORE DIFFERENT. HER LEGS ARE SO LONG AND SHE'S SO SLENDER.
SHE TALKED TO ME ONCE BUT I PRETENDED I DIDN'T HEAR HER
I DON'T WANT TO STAND NEXT TO HER.
I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN...

I'M HOME
WELCOME HOME.
NOTHING... IS THERE A LETTER FROM IORI-KUN?
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU SOUND UNHAPPY.
I SEE.
NO. I GUESS HE MUST BE BUSY.
Please at least hear me present our new product
You're persistent
WE CAME AGAIN.
WE GUARANTEE EXCELLENT AFTER-SALE SERVICE, MA'AM.
IF IT IS BROKEN OR THERE'S AN ACCIDENT, WE'LL COME TO FIX IT INSTANTLY.


Ah, then I'll come back some other time.
I've got work to do
HE TRIED SO HARD TO TALK TO MOM, BUT SHE ACTED LIKE HE DIDN'T EXIST HOW CRUEL
I FEEL SO SORRY FOR HIM.
EVERYONE IGNORES HIM.
WHY...
IS HE SO MUCH LIKE ME RIGHT NOW?

IF ONLY IORI-KUN...

...WAS HERE WITH ME...
HOW LONG AGO DID IORI-KUN TRANSFER TO A NEW SCHOOL?
HALF A YEAR AGO
BUT HANA STILL KEEPS SAYING "IORI THIS" AND "IORI THAT"


YEAH. OJI-SANS AND CHILDREN,
EVERYONE ADORES HANA.
THOSE AREN'T GOOD PROSPECTS WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TEENAGE BOYS
HOW COME SHE HASN'T MADE ANY NEW FRIENDS? SHE'S NOT A BAD KID.
MAYBE IN THIS DAY AND AGE, A GOOD-HEARTED GIRL ISN'T WELL-RECEIVED ANYMORE?
"IN THIS DAY AND AGE"? YOU SOUND LIKE A GRANDMA.
OH, YOU!
SHE'S PROBABLY JUST SHY. BUT ARARE...
COULD IT BE THAT SHE HASN'T GOTTEN USED TO THE NEW ENVIRONMENT?

Too lazy to drive Hamada so she went alone.
DON'T FOLLOW ME INTO THE BATHROOM, OKAY?
WHAT? WE'RE SISTERS!
HOW SHY CAN YOU GET?!
THE PEOPLE ON DUTY IN CLASS 1-2,
PLEASE COME TO THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE
THE PEOPLE ON DUTY IN CLASS 1-2,
People on duty today: Fukuyoshi Hamada
PLEASE COME TO THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE

Thud
EXCUSE ME.
TEACHER'S LOUNGE.
slide

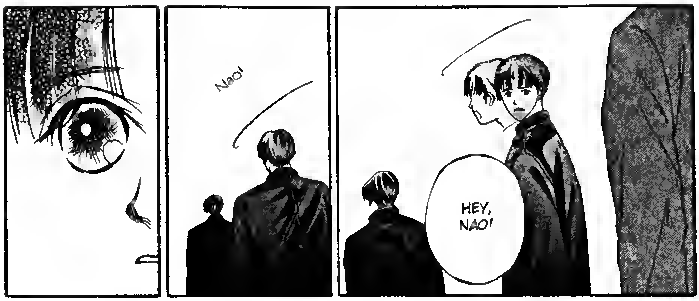
AH, FUKUYOSHI, TAKE THIS TO THE CLASSROOM
YES.
IT'S THE HOMEWORK FOR TODAY. A LITTLE HEAVY, SO BE CAREFUL
IF YOU'RE SO CONCERNED, STOP GIVING US THIS MUCH HOMEWORK.
DISTRIBUTE IT TO EVERYONE TOO.
NOT FAIR
OH, I FORGOT TO GIVE THIS TO MIBU.
FUKUYOSHI, GO CALL MIBU-KUN FOR ME.
MIBU-KUN?
AH.
YOUR CLASSMATE WHO JUST LEFT A MINUTE AGO.

THAT PERSON
MIBU-KUN...
FOUND HIM...
MIBU-KUN ..
AH

MIBU-KUN ...?
HEY, NAO. I THINK SHE'S CALLING YOU.

NO...
HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IORI-KUN AT ALL.
AH...
THEY'RE SO DIFFERENT. HOW COULD I SEE HIM AS IORI-KUN?
IT'S HIS HEIGHT.

EXACTLY IORI-KUN'S HEIGHT
CHUCKLE
WELL, THE TEACHER..
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?
STUPID GIRL!


Nao!
HEY, NAO!

MEETING WITH MIBU-KUN IS THE WORST.
HOW COULD YOU SAY THAT TO HER? SHE MUST BE CRUSHED
WAIT, NAO.

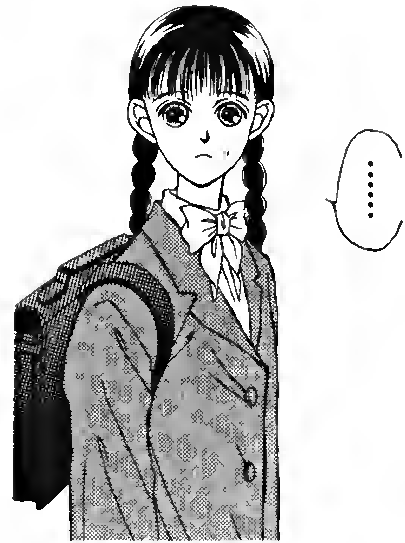
DIDN'T YOU SEE HOW SHE LOOKED AT ME AND LAUGHED?
LAUGHED? WHY?
BECAUSE I WAS A SHRIMP, WHAT ELSE! SHE GAVE ME A GOOD ONCE OVER
NO WAY FUKUYOSHI ISN'T THAT KIND OF GIRL
YOU KNOW HER?
DIFFERENT CLASSES, BUT SHE WAS POPULAR BACK IN THOSE DAYS.
DON'T YOU THINK SHE'S BEAUTIFUL? YOU CAN SAY YES, I WON'T TELL ANYONE
OR SHOULD I SAY HOT? TALL, SLENDER, AND WILLOWY
YEAH, WE CAME FROM THE SAME SCHOOL
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU HIT ON HER?

I LOST MY CHANCE. SHE WAS GOING OUT WITH A GUY ABOUT THE SAME HEIGHT AS YOU.
I GET IT. THAT'S WHY SHE LAUGHED WHEN SHE SAW YOU
I...
HANA...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING OVER THERE?

WAITING FOR IORI-KUN'S LETTER.
NO LETTER IS GOING TO BE DELIVERED AT THIS HOUR.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN AT SCHOOL?
NOTHING LEAVE ME ALONE.
GLOOM

IF ONLY IORI-KUN WAS HERE WITH ME..
STUPID GIRL!
IF ONLY IORI-KUN...

"IF ONLY IORI-KUN WAS HERE..."
I TRIED TO DENY THE REALITY OF THINGS BY TAKING COMFORT IN THAT THOUGHT



Sakura Blossom (2)

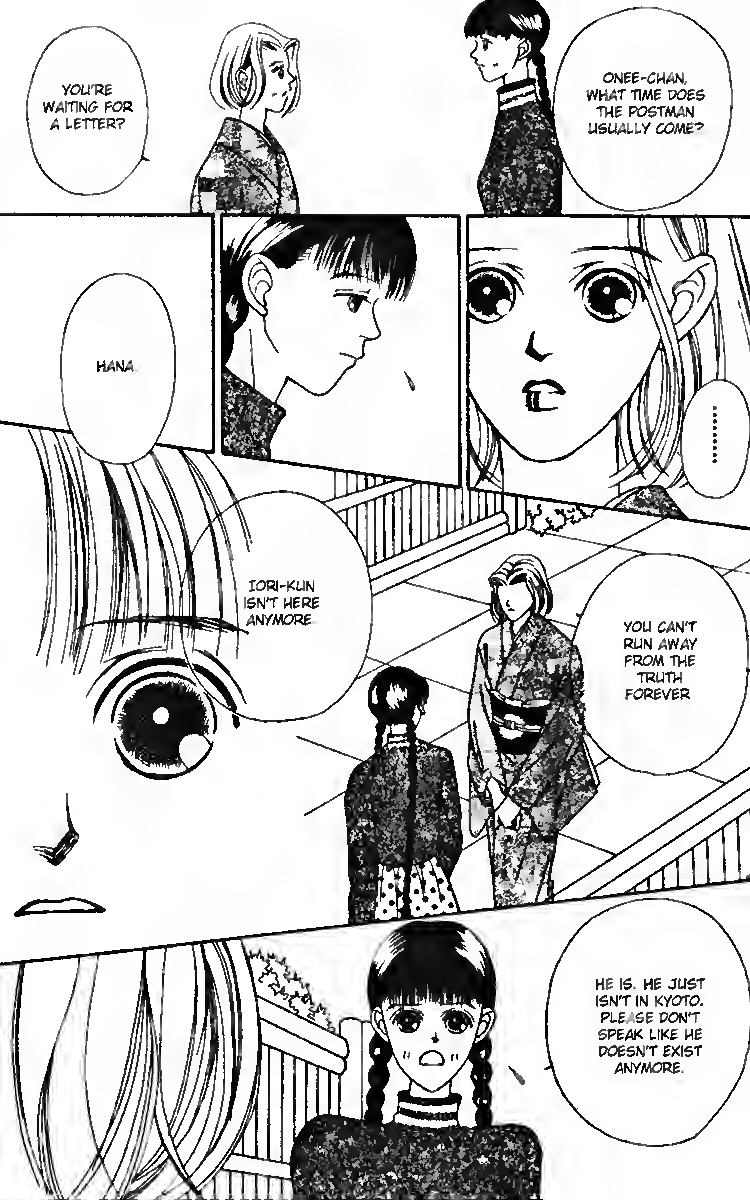
APRIL 4
NUMBER
CLASS
SCHOOL'S BIG CLEANING DAY
NUMBER
CLEANING THE GYM
NUMBER
CLEANING OUT TRASH
YOU'LL GET TALLER EVENTUALLY.
.....
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE OVER-SENSITIVE ABOUT YOUR HEIGHT.
GO APOLOGIZE TO FUKUYOSHI. TELL HER YESTERDAY WAS JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING.
SHUT UP! I KNOW THAT!
TALKING TOUGH, HUH?
Face to face
.....
UH...

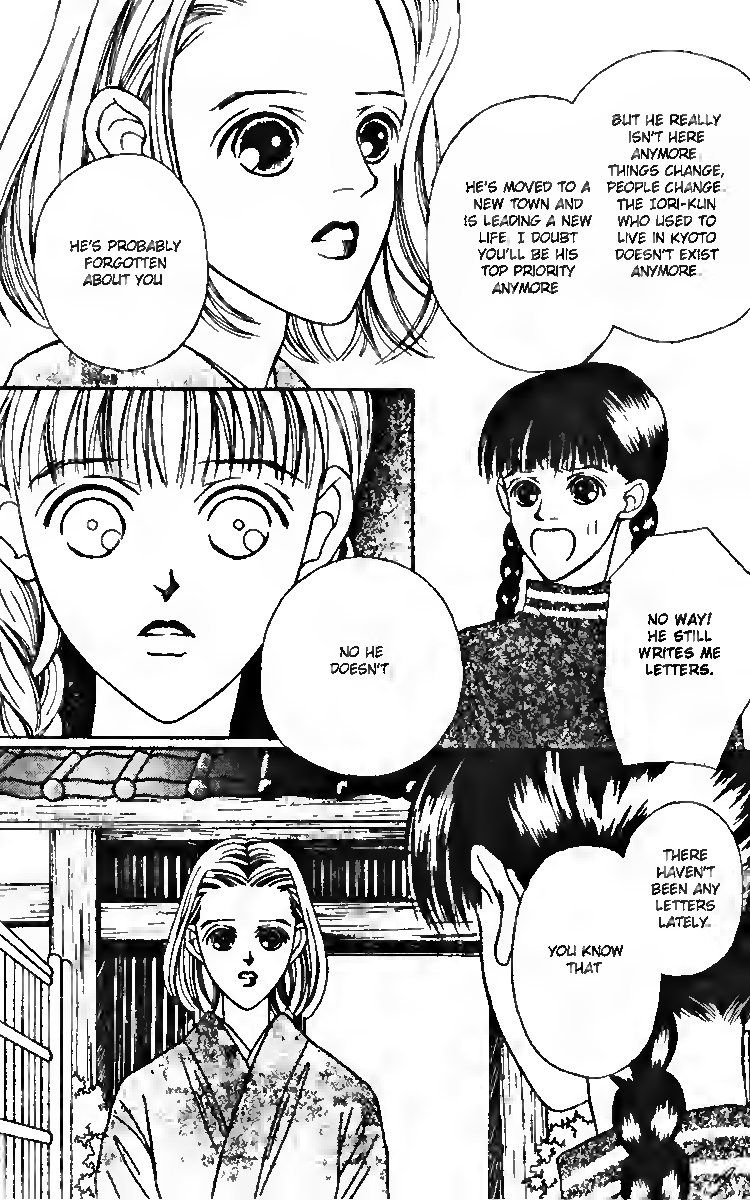
AH...
TURNS
STOP NAGGING. I KNOW THAT.
SEE? SHE'S MAD AT YOU. GO APOLOGIZE RIGHT NOW!
BECAUSE OF YOU, SHE'LL HATE ME TOO
.....
I CAN'T APOLOGIZE PROPERLY IF SHE KEEPS RUNNING AWAY WHENEVER SHE SEES ME.

.....
.....
ERM...
What? They can't leave us hanging like that
To be continued next week
What happened next?
LIH...
WE HAVE TO CLEAN THE WINDOWS.
THE TRASHCAN IS HEAVY. WOULD YOU MIND GIVING ME A HAND?

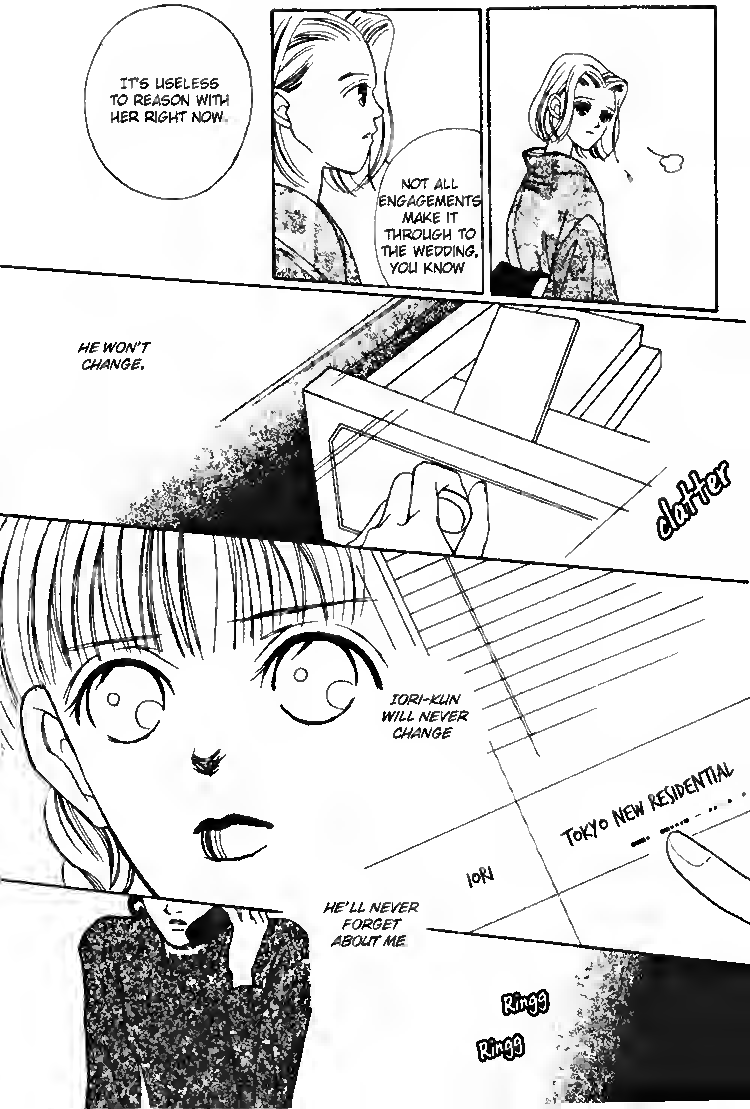
clatter
clatter
.....
.....
IN THE END...
BEEP
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S CAUGHT A COLD.
YES, FUKUYOSHI HANA CLASS 1-2.

.....
THIS IS JUST HER DYING SWAN ACT PRETENDING TO BE SICK. IS THIS OKAY?
MOM PERMITTED IT, DIDN'T SHE?
MOM SPOILS HER TOO MUCH. THIS ISN'T FAIR. WHEN I WAS HER AGE, SHE MADE ME GO TO SCHOOL EVEN WHEN I WAS REALLY SICK.
SHE'S PROBABLY AFRAID HANA WILL JUST BUNK CLASS AND GO WANDER AROUND LIKE SOMEONE ELSE SHE KNOWS.
HANA, WHAT'RE YOU DOING OVER THERE?
BECAUSE IT WAS JUST 4 OR 5 YEARS AGO.
WHY WOULD SHE REMEMBER SUCH AN OLD TALE?


ONEE-CHAN, WHAT TIME DOES THE POSTMAN USUALLY COME?
YOU'RE WAITING FOR A LETTER?
HANA.
.....
IORI-KUN ISN'T HERE ANYMORE.
YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM THE TRUTH FOREVER
HE IS. HE JUST ISN'T IN KYOTO. PLEASE DON'T SPEAK LIKE HE DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE.

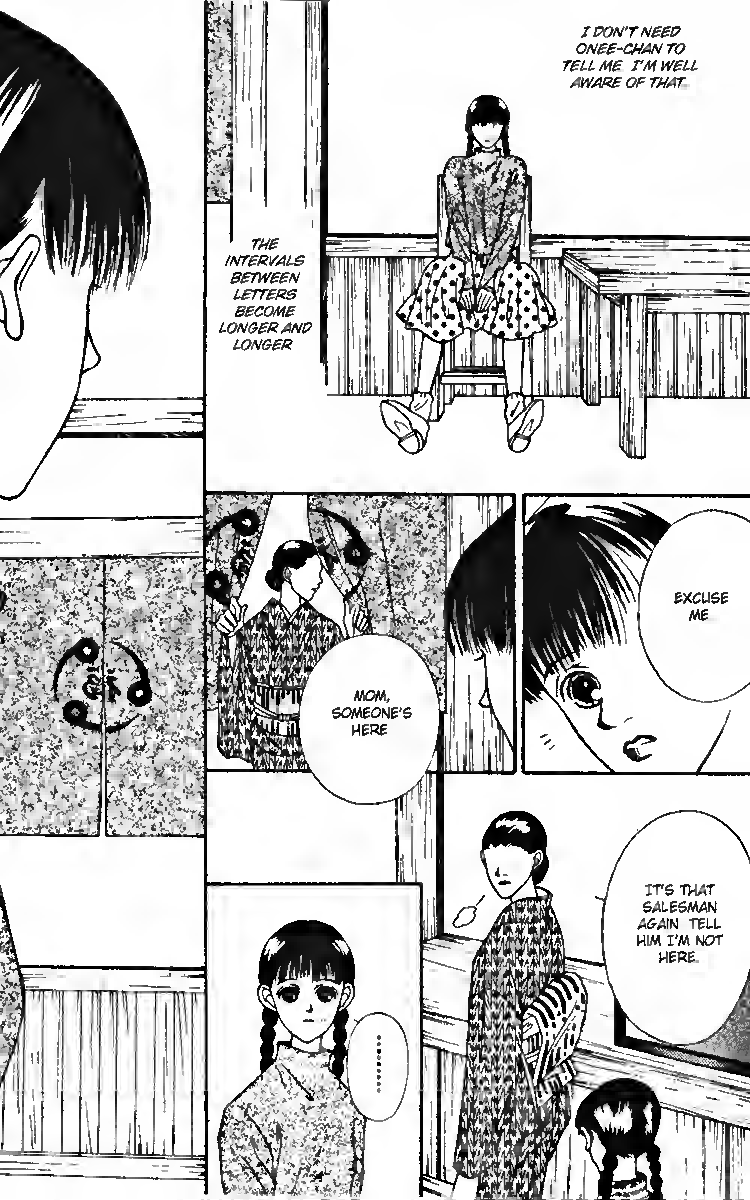

BUT HE REALLY ISN'T HERE ANYMORE. THINGS CHANGE, PEOPLE CHANGE. THE IORI-KUN WHO USED TO LIVE IN KYOTO DOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE.
HE'S MOVED TO A NEW TOWN AND IS LEADING A NEW LIFE. I DOUBT YOU'LL BE HIS TOP PRIORITY ANYMORE
HE'S PROBABLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT YOU
NO WAY! HE STILL WRITES ME LETTERS.
NO HE DOESN'T
THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY LETTERS LATELY.
YOU KNOW THAT

NOT FAIR
YOU'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED SOON
YOU DON'T HAVE TO FEAR BEING APART FROM HINOYAMA-SAN AGAIN
YOU COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT MY FEELINGS
THAT'S WHY YOU CAN SAY SOMETHING SO CRUEL WITH A STRAIGHT FACE
IORI-KUN WON'T CHANGE AND HE WON'T EVER FORGET ME!
HANA.


IT'S USELESS TO REASON WITH HER RIGHT NOW.
NOT ALL ENGAGEMENTS MAKE IT THROUGH TO THE WEDDING, YOU KNOW
HE WON'T CHANGE.
clatter
IORI-KUN WILL NEVER CHANGE
TOKYO NEW RESIDENTIAL
IORI
HE'LL NEVER FORGET ABOUT ME
Ring9
Ring9

PICKS UP
Hbump
HELLO IORI RESIDENCE
Hbump
Hbump
HELLO?
UH... MAY I SPEAK WITH TOMO-KUN PLEASE?
Hbump
Hbump
TOMO? WHO'S CALLING?
ERM... IT'S FU..
OH, YOU MUST BE ONE OF THE PEOPLE GOING SAKURA VIEWING WITH HIM TODAY!
NO, I..
HE HASN'T REACHED THE MEETING POINT YET? WHAT COULD HE BE DOING, THAT CHILD?

HE SAID HE WOULD STOP BY ONISHI-KUN AND MATSUMOTO-KUN'S HOUSES BEFORE AND THEN GO THERE TOGETHER HE LEFT HALF AN HOUR AGO.
ARE YOU THE ONE WHO CAME TO OUR HOUSE THE OTHER DAY?
YAMADA? SHIMADA? I'M SORRY BUT PLEASE WAIT FOR HIM A LITTLE LONGER.
YES, GOOD BYE
GOOD BYE.
TOOT
THESE ARE NAMES I DON'T KNOW.
THERE HAVEN'T BEEN ANY LETTERS LATELY YOU KNOW THAT

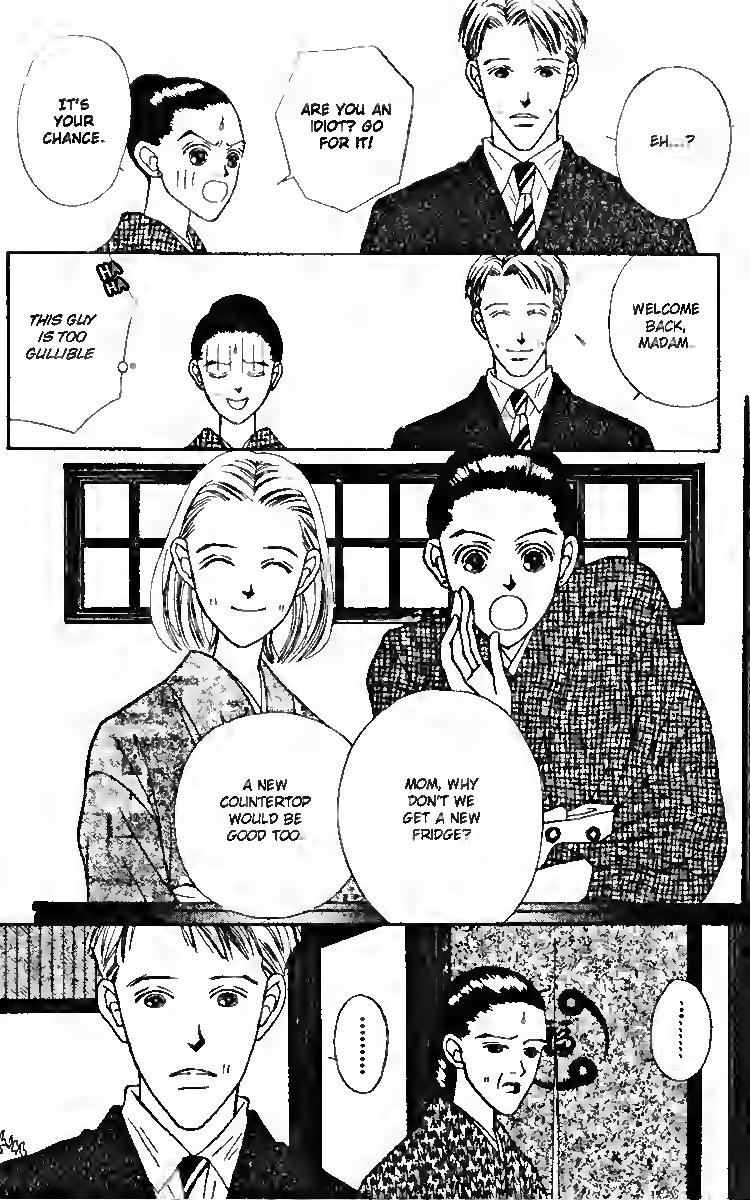

I DON'T NEED ONEE-CHAN TO TELL ME I'M WELL AWARE OF THAT.
THE INTERVALS BETWEEN LETTERS BECOME LONGER AND LONGER
EXCUSE ME
MOM, SOMEONE'S HERE
IT'S THAT SALESMAN AGAIN TELL HIM I'M NOT HERE.
.....

AH!
Scatter
I'M SORRY MY MOTHER WENT OUT.
I SEE
WELL, I'VE BROUGHT A NEW CATALOGUE TODAY MAYBE YOU WOULD...
.....
I'M SORRY.
I'LL CLEAN IT UP RIGHT NOW.
.....
BIG BRO, THIS AIN'T THE JOB FOR YOU.
HUH?
YOU SUCK AT SHOWCASING AND YOU STAMMER A LOT.
ACTUALLY I APPLIED FOR A TECHNICAL POSITION, BUT SOMEHOW THEY PUT ME IN SALES FIRST

AS YOU SEE, I'M NOT SUITED FOR THIS JOB.
I WAS VERY EXCITED TO GET THE JOB AT FIRST, BUT THE REALITY IS HARSH.
IT'S SO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I IMAGINED.
BUT I HAVE TO ACCEPT IT AND GIVE IT MY ALL
AS MUCH AS I FEEL NERVOUS AND EMBARRASSED, I KNOW THAT I HAVE TO BE THE ONE TO OPEN THE CONVERSATION
UNLESS I KEEP MAKING MOVES, NOTHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN.
NO ONE WILL BE INTERESTED IN WHAT I'M SELLING AT FIRST, ANYWAY
I CAN'T BELIEVE WE HAVE SUCH A PERSISTENT MAN IN KYOTO.

I SEE
YES. ANYWAY, TODAY I'D LIKE TO...
I APPRECIATE HONESTY FROM CUSTOMERS LIKE YOU
IT'S A GOOD LESSON FOR ME AFTER I'M MOVED BACK TO THE TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT, THIS WILL BE A GOOD EXPERIENCE TO HAVE HAD.
BUY ONE OF EVERY KIND OF THE WAGASHI IN THIS STORE PLEASE
ONE OF EVERY KIND?
WHAT'S THAT?
ERM... ACTUALLY I'M NOT THAT FOND OF WAGASHI.
BUT THE MADAM SCOLDED ME ONCE BECAUSE I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT COOKING AND YET I WAS SELLING KITCHEN APPLIANCES.

SO I'M TRYING TO LEARN.
COULD YOU PLEASE EXPLAIN THE COOKING PROCESS TO ME AND HOW I COULD PRESERVE THEM, TOO?
IN THAT CASE, I'LL SHOW YOU ALL THE WAGASHI YOU WANT TO SEE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
What's this?
Fukuya's signature namagashi
How do you keep it?
MOM
YOUNG MAN
COME IN AND TELL ME ABOUT YOUR PRODUCTS.


IT'S YOUR CHANCE.
ARE YOU AN IDIOT? GO FOR IT!
EH...?
HA HA
THIS GUY IS TOO GULLIBLE
WELCOME BACK, MADAM.
A NEW COUNTERTOP WOULD BE GOOD TOO.
MOM, WHY DON'T WE GET A NEW FRIDGE?
.....
.....

AMONG KYOTO'S ANCIENT SHOPS, THE NAME 'FUKUYOSHI TAMAKO' DOES MEAN SOMETHING, BIG BRO
IF YOU CLOSE A SALE HERE, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO BOAST ABOUT IT
SMILE
Hurry before I change my mind

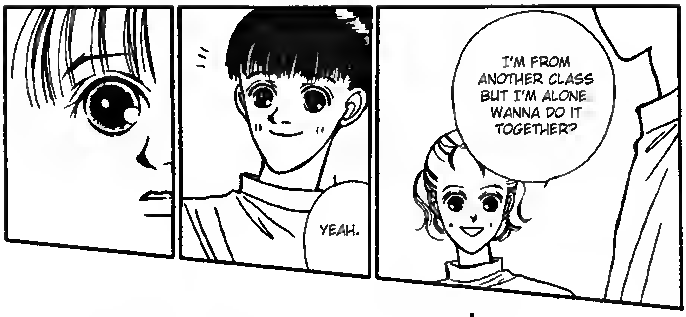
MY, HER MOTHERLY INSTINCTS KICKED IN.
WHAT...?
ISN'T THAT SALESMAN ABOUT YOUR AGE, ARARE? SEEING HIM TRY SO HARD, SHE JUST COULDN'T ACT CALLOUSLY TOWARD HIM ANY LONGER.
THAT MERCILESS SHREWD WOMAN?
.....
THAT'S YOUR MOTHER YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

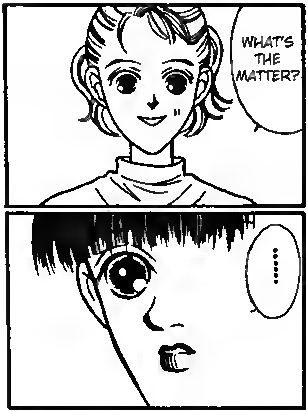
HE DID IT
HE FINALLY SOLD A PRODUCT TO MOM
NO, HE SOLD HIMSELF TO SELL HIS PRODUCT
HE MIGHT OF HAD A ROUGH START BUT IN THE END, HE SUCCEEDED.
WHAT ABOUT ME...?
WHAT ABOUT MY THREE YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL?

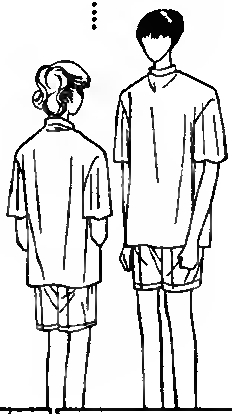
UNLESS I KEEP MAKING MOVES, NOTHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN
HEY, STRETCH
WHAT, MIBU? STOP CALLING ME LIKE EVERYONE DID BACK IN MIDDLE
No one here knows about it yet
STRETCH? I CAN SEE WHY.
YOU GIRLS.
WHY IS THAT BRAIDED GIRL ALIENATED?
STARTLE

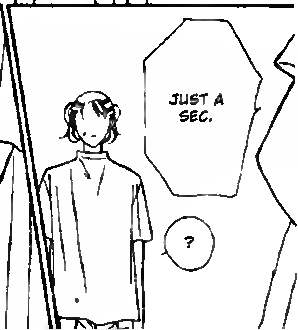
YEAH, RIGHT. THEN HOW COME SHE'S THE BLACK SHEEP AMONG THE GIRLS?
RIGHT
WE DIDN'T ALIENATE HER.
.....
.....
GOOD MORNING
GOOD MORNING
GOOD MORNING

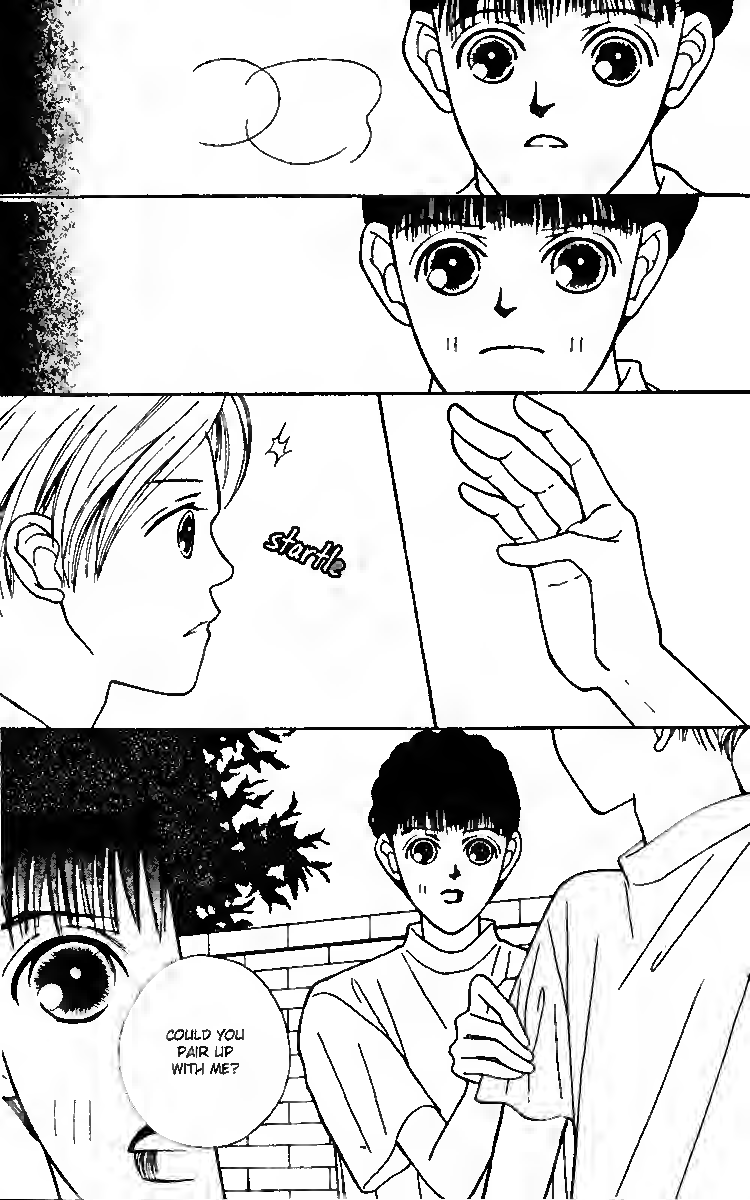
MORNING
WE'LL BEGIN BY DOING WARM UPS.
FIND YOURSELF A PARTNER
.....
UHM...
.....


I'M FROM ANOTHER CLASS BUT I'M ALONE WANNA DO IT TOGETHER?
YEAH.


WHAT'S THE MATTER?
.....




JUST A SEC.
?

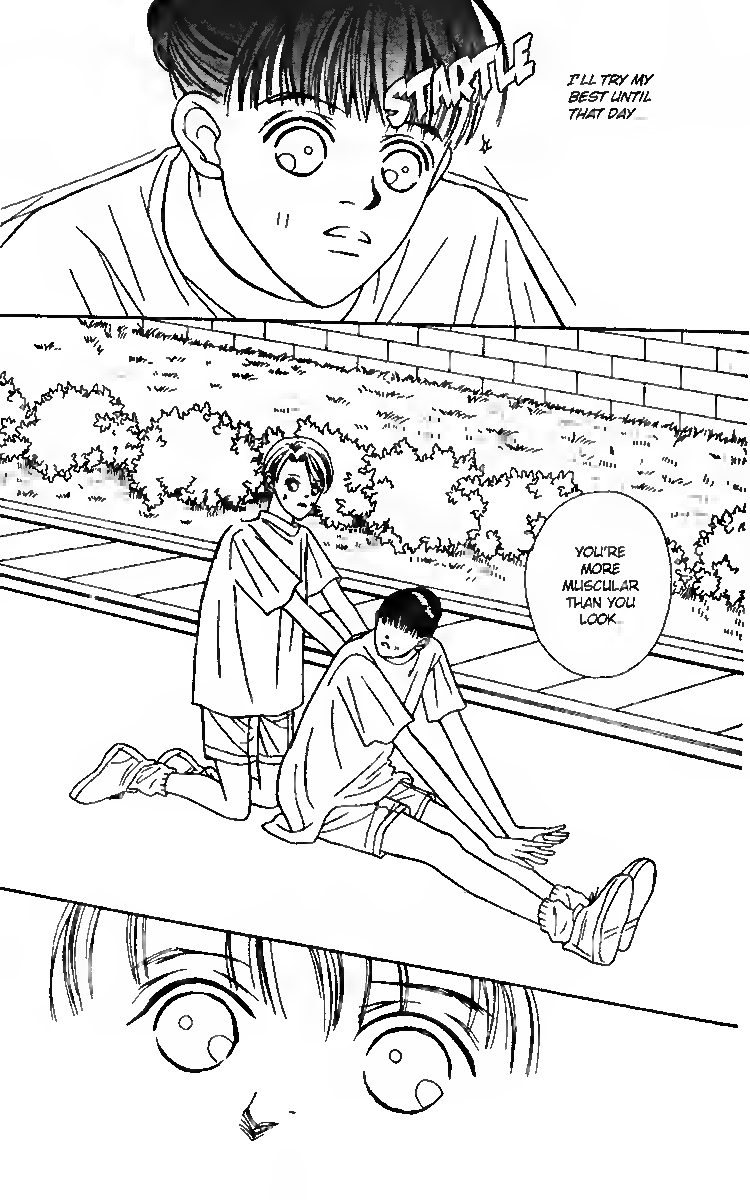

startle
COULD YOU PAIR UP WITH ME?

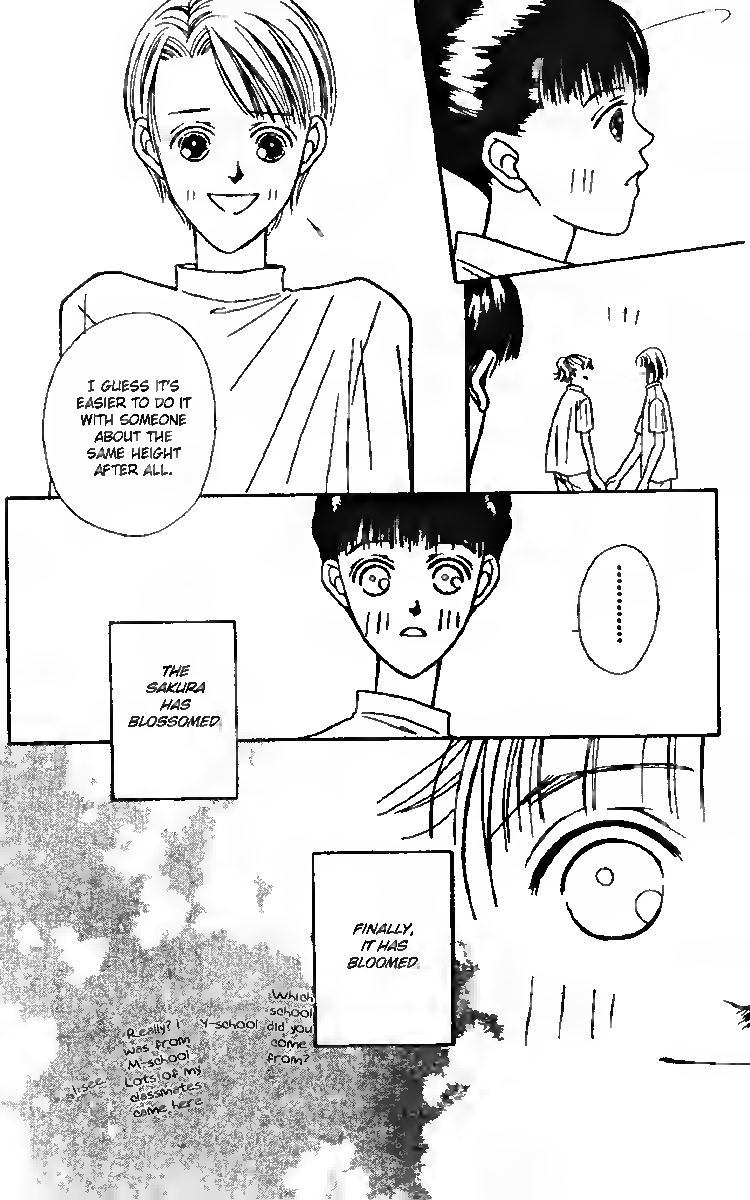
I WAS GOING TO PAIR UP WITH HER
BUT OUR HEIGHTS ARE TOO DIFFERENT...
I'M TOO TALL. IF MY PARTNER ISN'T ABOUT THE SAME HEIGHT AS ME, IT COULD BE DANGEROUS
SO LET'S PAIR UP.
EVERYTHING I DID, I ALWAYS HAD IORI-KUN WITH ME.

I WON'T GIVE UP UNTIL THE OTHER PERSON TURNS TO LOOK AT ME
SO
I HAVE TO SPEND MY LIFE HERE ALONE FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS
BUT I'M BY MYSELF NOW
THIS IS THE REALITY.
THIS IS THE PRESENT.

IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO PAIR UP WITH ME. LET'S DO IT ON OUR OWN
UHM.
SORRY.

I GUESS I HAVEN'T TRIED ENOUGH.
BUT...
ngg
ngg
ngg
HAH.
IT'S OKAY.
THE CLOGS HAVEN'T CLICKED YET,
BUT THEY WILL SOMEDAY.

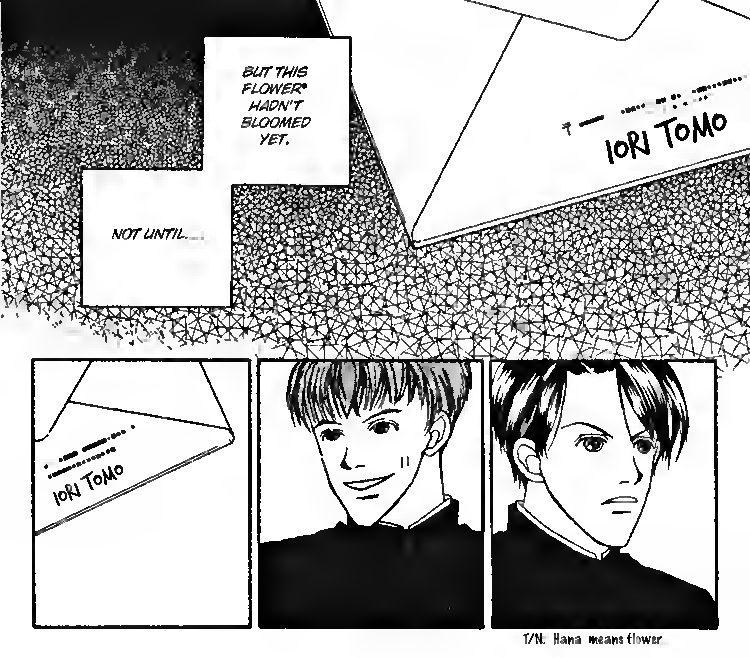

STARTLE
I'LL TRY MY BEST UNTIL THAT DAY...
YOU'RE MORE MUSCULAR THAN YOU LOOK...


I GUESS IT'S EASIER TO DO IT WITH SOMEONE ABOUT THE SAME HEIGHT AFTER ALL.
THE SAKURA HAS BLOSSOMED.
FINALLY, IT HAS BLOOMED.
Which school did you come from?
Y-school
Really? I was from M-school
Lots of my classmates came here
since

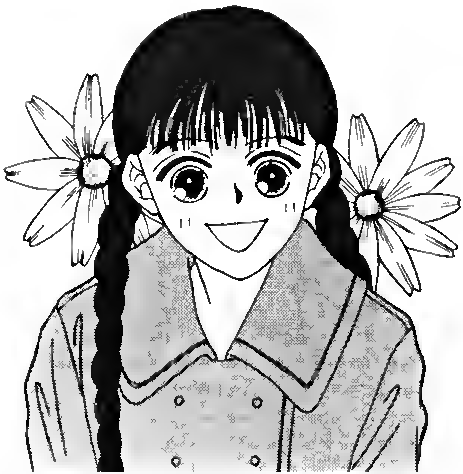
GOOD MORNING.
Good morning.
Good morning.
GOOD MORNING.
THE SAKURA IS IN FULL BLOOM NOW.
FACE TO FACE!

ABOUT THAT TIME.
DON'T RUN.
AHEM
I'M SORRY.
clap
clap
GOOD BOY, NAO. Mommy is so proud of you
Who was the other guy?
.....
See you Fukuyoshi

THE SEASON OF THE SAKURA.
THE SEASON OF NEW ENCOUNTERS.
THE SEASON OF ROMANCE.
FUKUOKA
YOU'VE GOT A LETTER.
THANK YOU
AH.
tap
FUKUYOSHI HANA
IT'S FINALLY COME



T/N: Hana means flower.



Type of Sakura Mochi

In Kansai (Osaka, Kyoto Kobe) sakura mochi is usualy made with steamed mochi rice shaped into small filled with anko and wrapped with a leaf

In Kanto (Tokyo) it's a pink 'crepe' filled with anko and wrapped with a sakura leaf.

Fukuyadon Hompo

by YUCHI Yayomi

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